



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Mikan Oranges To Be Exported to U.S.

OW2508140688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Thursday it plans to promote exports of Japanese "mikan"—tangerine orange—to the United States as part of its efforts to aid domestic farmers in the wake of Japan's expected further decontrol of farm produce imports.

The move follows U.S. agreement to ease regulations on the import of Japanese mikan oranges, the ministry said.

Under the U.S. regulations, Japanese mikan growers are obliged to set up special boundaries within a radius of 400 meters on all sides surrounding the cultivation area.

The U.S. said it wanted to prevent the "citrus ulcer" disease from entering the nation through mikan imports, according to the ministry.

As a result, only certain mikan-producing regions in Shizuoka and Ehime have so far been allowed to export their mikan to the U.S.

The U.S., however, agreed recently to have Japanese farmers grow nine types of Japanese oranges, including "hassaku" and "ponkan" oranges, within those boundaries, the ministry said.

The ministry will now consider designating several other locations to produce mikan for export to the U.S. Japan exported a total of 1,700 tons in fiscal 1987 ended last March, but most went to Canada, the ministry said.

Takeshita Arrives in Beijing on 24 August

For Beijing XINHUA and KYODO reportage of the visit to the PRC by Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and his talks with Chinese leaders, see the Northeast Asia section of the 25 August China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ROK President No To Visit in November

OW2508045188 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u will visit Japan as a state guest in mid-November following a round of calls to Southeast Asian nations, government sources said Thursday.

No's detailed itinerary in Japan is currently being discussed through diplomatic channels, the sources said.

No will be the first South Korean head of state to visit Japan in 4 years, after his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan in September 1984.

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita visited South Korea in February to attend No's inauguration ceremony. Takeshita is also scheduled to attend the September 17 opening ceremony of the Seoul Olympic games.

During a summit meeting in Seoul in February, No accepted Takeshita's invitation to visit Japan by the end of this year.

In their November meeting in Tokyo, Takeshita and No will discuss possible developments on the Korean peninsula after the Seoul Olympics, South Korea's moves to establish closer relations with China and the Soviet Union, and bilateral economic affairs, the government sources said.

Further on Upcoming Visit

OW2508130588 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u will visit Japan as a state guest for three days after November 13 following a round of visits to Southeast Asia, government sources said Thursday.

Japan and South Korea have begun consultations on No's detailed itinerary in Japan through diplomatic channels, the sources said.

No's visit will be officially announced when Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita meets him in Seoul on September 17 after attending the opening ceremony of the Seoul Olympics on that day.

Takeshita visited South Korea last February to attend No's inauguration ceremony. During a summit meeting in Seoul at that time, No accepted Takeshita's invitation to visit Japan by the end of this year.

In the September summit, Takeshita will announce a fresh initiative to help Korean residents in Sakhalin return home and to provide medical aid to atom bomb sufferers in South Korea, the source said.

There are an estimated 30,000 Koreans living in the Soviet Far East island, the southern half of which was under Japanese rule before World War II, and an estimated 20,000 Koreans who were exposed to radiation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

No will be the first South Korean head of state to visit Japan in four years, after his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan in September 1984.

No will be received in an audience with Crown Prince Akihito and have two rounds of summit talks with Takeshita in November, the sources said.

In the November Tokyo session, Takeshita and No will discuss how to cement bilateral friendship and promote long-term stable development in Northeast Asia.

The Korean peninsula situation after the Seoul Olympics and South Korea's approaches to China will also be on the agenda, the government sources said.

JSP Seeks Balanced Ties With North, South Korea
*OW2408173688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT
24 Aug 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 24 KYODO—A high-powered Japan Socialist Party task force proposed on Wednesday that the party promote well-balanced friendly ties with both North and South Korea.

The largest Japanese opposition party will adopt the fresh initiative at a session of its top policy-making body, the Central Executive Committee, on September 1, JSP officials said.

The nine-member team led by Akira Ono, one of four JSP vice chairmen, put forth the proposal which is contained in its interim report compiled after two months of studies on how to promote friendship and exchanges with South Korea, the officials said.

The report says that the JSP has never denied the existence of South Korea and will try to alter the perception that it is only pro-Pyongyang in its policies.

Saying that there are two states on the Korean peninsula, the report calls for promoting well-balanced friendship with the North and South in order to help relax tensions and realize peace in Northeast Asia.

The JSP will support inter-Korean efforts toward reunification as agreed upon between the governments of both Koreas in July 1972, the document said.

The report, however, urges maintaining existing friendly ties built up between the JSP and North Korea's ruling Korea Workers' Party.

It also calls for sending an official party delegation to South Korea in order to promote friendship and exchanges with government officials, parliamentarians and political parties there.

Immediately after peaceful transition of power in South Korea from Chon Tu-hwan to No Tae-u in February the JSP declared that it would promote exchanges with South Korea. The statement represented a major departure from its decades-long stance to promote friendship only with North Korea.

JSP leader Takako Doi has repeatedly expressed hopes of visiting South Korea this year.

South Korea has, however, criticized the main Japanese opposition party for its pro-Pyongyang stance.

South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party leader Yun Kil-chung, who visited Japan in early August, said in Tokyo that Seoul will welcome any JSP members who hope to have talks aimed at improving ties between the JSP and South Korea.

Opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, both of whom came to Tokyo earlier this month, met Doi and welcomed her to visit Seoul.

The JSP established the task force in mid-June after its newspaper "SHAKAI SHIMPO" carried a false report saying that Japan, the United States, South Korea and Bahrain conspired to fabricate the loss of a South Korean airliner with 115 people aboard last November.

The party later apologized to South Korea for publicizing the false report.

Two JSP Diet members visited South Korea this year, Kenzo Kawamata in May and Kozo Igarashi earlier this month.

Kawamata joined an interparty parliamentary mission to review preparations for the Seoul Olympics, while Igarashi was to attend a meeting on Korean divided families whose relatives live in China and the Soviet Union.

Defense Chief Urges SDF To Seek Public Support
*OW2508043788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—New Defense Agency Director General Kichiro Tazawa urged the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) Thursday to perform their duties to defend Japan and also to strive to establish public confidence in them.

Tazawa, who on Wednesday succeeded Tsutomu Kawara as state minister for defense, said that Japan as a member of the non-communist world, needs to make further defense buildup efforts.

The 70-year-old Defense Agency chief, speaking at a meeting of senior agency officials and uniformed officers at the agency headquarters, said there must be no more sea disasters such as the July 23 collision between a Maritime Self-Defense Force submarine and a sport fishing boat.

Tazawa said the Defense Agency must take action to prevent a recurrence of such a sea disaster, which claimed the lives of 30 of the 48 people aboard the civilian vessel.

Japan cannot defend itself without public support for the 244,000-strong armed services, he said.

Tazawa's predecessor Kawara also addressed the agency officials and SDF officers, saying he regrets that the sea accident involved the SDF, which he said is responsible for protecting the Japanese people's lives and property.

Kawara, who served as Defense Agency director general for 10 months, urged the officials to win firm public confidence in the SDF.

Agency Announces Proposed Budget

OW2508131388 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—The Defense Agency on Thursday announced a 3,927.3 billion yen budget request for fiscal 1989 that it says would keep Japan's level of defense preparedness in step with the agency's current five-year military buildup plan.

The requested figure for the new fiscal year beginning next April represents a 6.1 percent increase over the 3,700.3 billion yen defense budget for the current fiscal year, which is itself 5.2 percent higher than that of the preceding year.

The Defense Agency said in a report issued the same day on the budget request that the proposed amount would enable it to keep Japan's defense growth commitments in line with its mid-term defense program, which covers fiscal years 1986-1990.

The ceiling on the total amount of defense-related expenditures required in the midterm program is estimated by the agency at some 18.4 trillion yen at 1985 prices.

The report suggested that the funds desired would in part enable Japan's Self-Defense Forces to match the technological standards of other nations.

It added that a portion of the amount requested would be used to improve integrated operations and command and communication functions, while establishing a balance between frontline equipment and logistical support.

The agency plans to allocate some 4.8 billion yen of its proposed new budget to the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) for procurement of eight new armored vehicles with strengthened armor, increased firepower and enhanced mobility.

In addition, the agency has set its sights on a fresh supply of newly developed SSM-1 model surface-to-ship missiles. The missiles, which have a range of more than 100 kilometers, would be launched over the sea from inland bases to destroy enemy ships attempting an invasion of Japan.

Some 14.3 billion yen would be directed to the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) for purchase of a sonic depth-finder ship that would be employed in antisubmarine warfare.

The budget would also open the way for the MSDF to acquire two 1,000-ton class deep-sea minesweepers capable of knocking out mines as deep as several hundred meters under the surface. The minesweepers would cost the taxpayer about 32.8 billion yen, the report indicated.

The Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) hopes to be allotted 127.7 billion yen for 14 new F-15 interceptor fighters. Other funds would be used for trial work to convert F-4EJ planes into reconnaissance aircraft.

As for Japan's next-generation support fighter, the FSX, 36.3 billion yen would be budgeted for basic designing, for test-manufacturing of fire-control radar for ground testing purposes, and other areas.

The Defense Agency's budget request comes three days after it released its annual white paper on Wednesday, which said Japan must continue to maintain and upgrade its defensive capabilities and forge closer ties with the United States in view of the Soviet Union's increasing military presence in the Far East.

Foreign Ministry Requests 1989 Budget

OW2508105688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0928 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry will request 474.25 billion yen as its budget allocation for Fiscal 1989, including 360.33 billion yen for official development assistance (ODA), Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

According to the request, the ODA figure shows an increase of 30.59 billion yen or 9.3 percent from the current year's ODA budget. Development assistance from the ministry accounts for roughly one-half of Japan's total ODA.

The ODA request will be filed in accordance with Japan's international pledge, announced by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at the June Toronto summit of seven industrialized democracies, to double its ODA to over 50 billion dollars in the five years between fiscal 1988 and fiscal 1992.

Of the ministry's ODA request, 161.6 billion yen will be allocated to enlarge grants-in-aid and 117.49 billion yen to expand the Japan International Cooperation Agency's projects.

In its budgetary request, the ministry also emphasized international cultural and personnel exchange projects and the reinforcement of Japan's contribution to achieving world peace, the officials said.

The ministry will ask for 13.57 billion yen to promote international exchanges and 14.41 billion yen to finance Japan's global peacekeeping activities, which includes 2.5 billion yen to help Afghan refugees returning home.

The ministry is also planning to use part of the budget to reorganize its Consular and Immigration Affairs Department so as to cope both with the increasing number of foreign workers in Japan and with international terrorism.

Miyazawa Views on Sustained Economic Growth
OW2308073788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 23 KYODO—Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday expressed concern about a possible overheated economy including brisk private-sector capital spending sparked by brisk domestic demand, government sources said.

Miyazawa told a cabinet meeting which authorized the monthly government economic report that the economy is accelerating at an expanded pace, the sources said.

The nation's private-sector investment in factories and equipment is predicted to jump 19.5 percent in fiscal 1988 from the previous fiscal year.

The finance minister said the high capital spending might pose a threat to steady economic growth and cause an overheated economy.

Responding to Miyazawa's concern, Director General of the Economic Planning Agency Eiichi Nakao, who initiated the monthly report, said managers at factories and mines are increasing expenditures to streamline and enhance their respective technologies, the sources said.

The increased capital spending, Nakao stressed, would not lead to excess supply as a result of expanded production capacity, they said.

Miyazawa told a press conference after the cabinet meeting that he wanted Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's cabinet ministers to share the same idea that sustained economic growth is essential to Japan.

Economic Report Sees Expansion Without Inflation
OW2308025888 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 23 KYODO—A government report said on Tuesday the rate of Japan's economic expansion is increasing with little fear of a rekindling of inflation.

The economic monthly report, presented by Director General of the Economic Planning Agency Eiichi Nakao, was authorized by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The economy, which has recovered from a recession caused by the yen's sharp advance against the U.S. dollar, is now in an expansionary stage for the ninth straight month, the report said.

Output at factories and mines rose 3.3 percent in June compared to last year, following a 0.9 percent and 2.3 percent fall in April and May, supported by brisk domestic demand, it said.

Household spending by salaried workers' families posted a 2.4 percent year-on-year increase in June and sales at major department stores soared 7.1 percent in June from the same month a year ago.

Housing starts reached a high level again, totaling 172 million units in June, though the monthly figure was below the record monthly high of 1.80 million units in the middle of last year.

According to a survey conducted by the agency in June, managers at major companies revised their planned capital investment in 1988 to an average increase of 19.5 percent from an average increase of 8.8 percent, expected in March.

Meanwhile, the country's domestic wholesale commodity prices showed a 0.2 percent month-to-month rise in July for two months in a row due chiefly to the decline in the value of the yen against the U.S. currency.

But there is little fear of a rekindling of inflation, as exchange rates are hovering at the interbank trading level of 130 yen to the dollar, an official at the agency added.

Mongolia

Sodnom Sends Condolence Telegram to Ryzhkov
OW2008133688 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Mongolian Prime Minister Sodnom has expressed deep condolences to his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov in connection with the train accident on the Moscow-Leningrad railway line.

Leaders Greet Afghanistan on Anniversary
OW1908091888 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1340 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 Aug (MONTSAME)—On the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of Afghanistan, Mongolian leaders J. Batmonh and D. Sodnom have sent a congratulatory telegram to Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It expresses the Mongolian people's consistent support for the Afghan people's struggle to consolidate the gains of the April Revolution, for firm adherence to the provisions of the Geneva agreements on a political solution of the problem around Afghanistan, and for implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Hungarian Envoy Presents Credentials to Batmonh
OW 2608010288 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1808 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 24 Aug (MONTSAME)—Sandor Szapora, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic (HPR) to the MPR, yesterday presented his credentials to J. Batmonh, chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium.

During the credentials presentation Comrade J. Batmonh and Ambassador Sandor Szapora exchanged speeches. J. Batmonh noted that the friendship and cooperation between the MPR and the HPR are developing and expanding from year to year in the spirit of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the importance of constantly strengthening the unity and cohesion among the socialist community countries, friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, and the joint struggle against aggressive forces of the world for the elimination of the threat of nuclear war.

Ambassador S. Szapora noted that the energetic activities of the MPR, together with other socialist countries, aimed at promoting the cause of peace and security on the Asian Continent are highly assessed in the HPR. He also stressed the significant development of cooperation between our two countries in recent years.

The presentation of credentials was attended by T. Gotob, secretary of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium; T. Gombosuren, MPR minister of foreign affairs; and B. Natsagdorj, chief of an MPR Ministry of Foreign Affairs department.

North Korea

North Reports on Round 4 Parliamentary Talks

Draft Agreement Presented

SK2608021188 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0113 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The fourth round meeting of North-South delegates to prepare for a North-South joint parliamentary meeting is being held from 1000 [0100 GMT] today in the area of the South in Panmunjom.

Our side put forth a draft agreement on the convocation and operation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting at the first round meeting of the delegates of the two sides held on last 19 August, and expressed a hope that this would be concluded through sincere discussion and based on that, the first round North-South joint parliamentary meeting would be held in Pyongyang today.

However, the South side, even from the first round meeting, converted its former stand that it agreed with our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint

parliamentary meeting, and created artificial difficulties for discussing the questions, which resulted in the fourth round meeting to be held today after three meetings between delegates of the two sides and after individual contact between heads of the delegates.

Many domestic and foreign reporters have flocked in Panmunjom to report on today's meeting between the two sides.

Present at the meeting are Chon Kum-chol, head of the delegates; and delegates An Pyong-su, Yi Tong-chol, Yi Chu-ung, and Pak Mun-chan from our side, and five delegates from the South side.

The meeting continues.

Chon Kum-chol Speaks at Meeting

SK2608035488 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0147 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The fourth round meeting between delegates from the North and the South to prepare for a North-South joint parliamentary meeting is now under way in the area of the South side in Panmunjom.

Chon Kum-chol, the head of our side's delegation, made remarks at the meeting. Saying that we consider it very regrettable that those politicians who have arranged this meeting with the grave responsibility and duty of solving urgent problems without a moment's delay in conformity with the common interests of the nation, should need to hold the meeting as many as four times as a result of the failure to explore points in common through mutual understanding and concessions, he noted: As we have repeatedly stressed, our delegation believed without any doubt that our delegations would conclude the meeting after only a single round of discussion and that today, 26 August, they would be convening the first round of a historic North-South joint parliamentary meeting in Pyongyang amid the wishes of the Korean people and the people of the world.

To tell the truth, the proposal for convening a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and discussing at that meeting the question of nonaggression and the question of the Olympics, the settlement of which can no longer be delayed even for a moment amid the present North-South relations—which our side put forth to the South side through the letter dated 20 July—is a most reasonable measure that those politicians who are concerned even a little about the fate of the nation and who listen to the voices of the people of all walks of life find no problem in accepting. Talking about the form of the joint parliamentary meeting proposed by our side is a most active negotiation method that makes it possible to gather and reflect the opinions and wisdom of the masses of all walks of life in discussing and solving the grave matters of the nation.

In reality, countless people of all walks of life, as well as political parties and organizations, are coming out with diverse assertions on reunification in South Korea. They themselves object to a certain group's monopoly of North-South dialogue and more strongly demand their participation in dialogue with the North than ever before to directly reflect their opinions in solving the problem of reunification. When the parliamentary politicians in the North and the South hold negotiations, we should not ignore these assertions and demands of the people of all walks of life, but explore methods of negotiation that would maximally accept them.

Consequently, it can be said that the best method of negotiations to fully reflect the opinions and desires of the people of all walks of life in the North and the South at present is holding a joint parliamentary meeting in which all the lawmakers of the two sides, who are elected by the people, and representatives of other political parties and organizations and figures from all walks of life participate. When a North-South joint parliamentary meeting that both the lawmakers of the two sides and representatives of other political parties and organizations and figures of all walks of life attend, is held, it is doubtless that the opinions of the people of all walks of life can be excellently gathered in solving the grave matters of the nation, that a most reasonable settlement can be reached through heart-to-heart discussion, and that a new turning occasion for national reconciliation and unity will open as a result of vigorous contact and exchange between the politicians of the North and the South. In other words, convening a North-South joint parliamentary meeting will serve to provide a grand forum for national reconciliation and unity and help our politicians fulfill their heavy but honorable responsibility and the duty assigned to them before the nation in expediting peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

When it comes to the agenda items, our side's proposal is, in every respect, reasonable. Needless to discuss further, the most pressing problems today, the settlement of which can no longer be delayed between the North and the South, are preventing war and solving the problem of the 24th Olympic Games such that they may serve to promote national reconciliation and unity, not division and confrontation. The state of military tension and confrontation that is becoming more acute with each passing day, produces misunderstanding and distrust, and comprises one of the fundamental obstacles to improving North-South relations and promoting the peaceful reunification of the country.

Should another war break out in our country because our politicians fail to take practical measures to ease tension while only paying lip service to easing the tension, we will not even talk about national reconciliation, dialogue, and reunification; our nation will not be able to avoid irreversible calamities; and the nation will be reduced to ruin. Our politicians cannot just look at this tragic situation, but must prevent the outbreak of war in

our country at any cost. Toward this end, there is no other way but to discuss and solve problems that concern the draft declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South, which our side sent to the South side.

Presently, settling the issue of the 24th Olympic Games is an urgent matter that brooks no delay. In reality, the issue of the 24th Olympics is a very acute and important matter that will decide whether North-South relations would be turned into relations of reconciliation, unity, and reunification or into relations of irrevocable confrontation.

At present, ardently hoping that the issue of the 24th Olympics would be settled according to the common interest of the nation and its aspiration of reunification and, thus, a true festival of national reconciliation and unity would be held, all compatriots acknowledge that the way to this is North-South cohosting of the Olympics.

If the politicians of the North and South deeply realize such a wish of the people and settle the issue of the 24th Olympics according to the common interest of the nation and its aspiration for reunification, an epochal phase will be created in our country for national reconciliation and unity, and a bright vista will open for peaceful reunification in the future.

However, if the Olympics are obstinately and forcibly held unilaterally, this will result in nothing but the deepening of division and confrontation, and will leave a serious blot in the history of our nation.

This is precisely why our delegation has proposed [the discussion of] the issue of nonaggression and the issue of the Olympics, which are the most urgent reunification issues among all issues, though there are many issues to be settled between the North and South.

Chon Kum-chol, head of our delegates, mentioned the fact that, despite such sincerity and magnanimity of ours, the South side, from the beginning, put forth totally irrational assertions, insisted on them to the bitter end, and created difficulties for the discussion of the issues even by converting the matters that were already agreed upon. Then, he went on to add:

Above all, in connection with the format of the meeting, the South side is unconditionally opposing our proposal for a joint parliamentary meeting only with a single pretext that efficiency cannot be enhanced, because it is complicated, if many people participate in it. The South side says that it is complicated, if many people participate in it, and agreement can be efficiently reached, if a few people get together. This is also an unsuitable assertion.

The assertion of the South side that the format of the meeting should be talks of representatives participated in by a few people can only be construed as an attempt to block the reflection of the majority in discussing and settling the important national matters.

In connection with our proposal for a joint meeting, the South side is opposing with the pretext that there was never a precedent for such a meeting in the world. This assertion, too, is by no means reasonable.

We want to hold a meeting to settle precisely the internal matter of our nation, not the matter of any other foreign country. Accordingly, there is no need for us to make it an issue and we should not, whether it has been tried or not tried in foreign countries. No matter what other countries may do, we have no need to dogmatically follow them but should unhesitatingly adopt a meeting format that is appropriate and beneficial to settling the internal matters of our nation.

What should not be overlooked is that the South side is opposing the joint conference while making remarks that the parliamentarians are busy and how can they hold mutual visits in the North and the South of all parliamentarians.

As we have already clearly pointed out, nothing is more important and urgent for the parliamentarians of both sides than to resolve the issue of national reunification.

In formulating the agenda for the joint conference, the South side raised issues in such a way as to create artificial obstacles since even the first meeting. Our proposal to the South side for holding a North-South joint parliamentary conference was designed to discuss and resolve the issue of publishing a joint North-South nonaggression declaration to prevent war, which may break out at any moment, and the issue of cohosting the 24th Olympics.

However, from the very beginning, the South side put forth various issues in an attempt to include this and that on the agenda. Thus, the South side has created new complexity and confusion in discussing the issues and has wasted time.

Even more regrettable on the discussion of the agenda is that though both sides agreed to limit the agenda to three items, thanks to our side's concession during the second meeting, and though both sides reached complete agreement on the contents of two of the three issues, the South side attempted to overturn this agreement at the third meeting.

As a matter of fact, the South side agreed to deal with the issue of summit talks and to include the issue of Olympics on the agenda by accepting the assertions of both sides during the second meeting. Nevertheless, at the

third meeting, the South side again put forward its previous assertions, thus revealing its intention to delay for time with agenda issues.

It is clear that if one side presents a new issue to discuss at the moment, when an agreement has almost been reached on discussion of the agenda, the agenda alone will endlessly waste time.

Thus, because of the insincere position and attitude of the South side, the first session of the North-South joint parliamentary conference was not convened on 26 August, the date for when it was originally scheduled. In view of all this, we cannot but doubt if the South side is interested in dialogue with us, if the South side is prepared to resolve the issue of easing tension and the issue of Olympics in the common interests of the nation, and if the South side has the will for reunification.

Chon Kum-chol, the head of the delegation, stressed that we, the politicians, should not waste time adhering to assertions at this urgent time when deciding between reconciliation or confrontation and war or peace.

He said that, proceeding from this position, we put forward the following proposals to save our meeting, which has come to deadlock, to realize the historic North-South parliamentary negotiations at an early date and to put the assertions made by the South side at the third meeting into consideration:

1. The form of conference:

The negotiations between the parliaments of the North and the South will be held at the combined conference in which all parliamentarians of the North and the South participate.

The issue of allowing representatives of political parties and public organizations that have no seats in the parliament and figures from all walks of life to participate in the North-South combined parliamentary conference will be discussed at the main conference.

2. The agenda for discussion:

The North-South combined parliamentary conference will discuss the following agenda:

- a) The issue of publishing a joint North-South declaration on nonaggression;
- b) The issue of the North and the South cohosting the 24th Olympics and the issue of inviting the athletic team of the North side to the 24th Olympics;
- c) The issue of realizing multilateral cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South.

3. The date and venue of the first conference:

The sooner the first meeting of the North-South combined parliamentary conference is held, the better. The first meeting will discuss the issue of the 24th Olympics as an urgent agenda. The first meeting of the North-South combined parliamentary conference will be held in Pyongyang.

Our new proposal is another clear demonstration of our sincere efforts to advance our meeting at any cost and is a just and fair proposal that fully reflects the demands of the South side.

We firmly believe that the South side has no reason not to accept our new proposal. We expect that the South side will make a courageous decision to accept our new epochal proposal.

Date for Fifth Round Set

SK2608105388 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1039 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom August 26 (KCNA)—The fourth round of the meeting between delegates of the North and the South for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting was held in the South side's area of Panmunjom from 10 this morning.

Seeking to save the meeting from the impasse and arrange a historical negotiation between the parliaments of the North and the South at an early date and taking into consideration the assertions of the South side at the third round of the meeting, head of our side's delegation Chon Kum-chol put forward the following new proposal at the meeting:

First, the form of the meeting.

The negotiation between the parliaments of the North and the South shall assume the form of a joint meeting attended by the parliamentarians of both sides.

The question of inviting representatives of political parties and organisations with no parliamentary seats and personages of various circles to the North-South joint parliamentary meeting shall be shelved and discussed at the plenary session.

Second, the agenda of discussion.

The following agenda shall be discussed at the North-South joint parliamentary meeting:

- (1) The publication of a joint declaration on non-aggression between the North and the South.
- (2) The co-hosting of the 24th Olympic Games by the North and the South and the invitation of North side's sports teams to the games.
- (3) The realisation of many-sided cooperation and exchange between the North and the South.

Third, the date and venue of the first session.

The earlier the first session of the North-South joint parliamentary meeting the better and the first session shall discuss the problem of the 24th Olympic Games as an urgent agenda item.

The first session of the joint parliamentary meeting shall be held in Pyongyang.

Chon Kum-chol urged the south side to accept this momentous proposal of ours, saying that our new proposal is another clear manifestation of our sincere and honest efforts to promote the meeting by all means and a fair and aboveboard one fully reflecting the demand of the South side.

While expressing its understanding that the new proposal is a go-ahead and developed one and a manifestation of the North side's sincerity to make the meeting between the two sides successful, the South side refused to accept the new proposal carrying our concessions.

The South side created deliberate obstacles in the way of the talks, wasting time with argument about the procedures of steering the North-South joint parliamentary meeting, the method of adopting motions, etc. and insisted on having talks between parliamentary delegates it had proposed earlier.

When our side urged the South side to clarify its stand toward our side's new proposal, it would not show any change in its stand, stating that it was absolutely opposed to any meeting save talks between parliamentary delegates.

And it openly insisted on its single-handed staging of the 24th Olympics, declaring that it was opposed to its co-hosting.

Sharply calling the South side to account for its wrong stand and stance, the head of our side's delegation demanded that it make a deeper study of our new proposal and produce an advanced proposal at the fifth round of the meeting and repeatedly advised it to propose its date.

The South side, surprisingly enough, offered to put off the fifth round of the meeting till October. Saying that such stand of the South side was a very irresponsible act ignoring the desire of the whole nation, our side proposed to have it on August 27 or 29 or 30.

But the South side categorically opposed this and its chief delegate even rose from his seat and made to walk out of the conference room.

The South side doggedly refusing to set the date, our side proposed to have the fifth round of the meeting at "Tongilgak" of our side on October 13.

The South side agreed to this.

Head of the delegation Chon Kum-chol gave a news briefing after the meeting.

Fourth Round of Talks Reviewed

*SK2608123088 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1100 GMT 26 Aug 88*

[Text] The fourth round of the meeting between delegates of the North and South to prepare a North-South joint parliamentary meeting was held in Panmunjom.

The fourth round of the meeting between delegates of the North and South to prepare a North-South joint parliamentary meeting was held on the South side of Panmunjom at 1000 [0100 GMT] on 26 August.

At the first meeting between the delegates of both sides on 19 August, our side advanced a proposal, a basic and concrete proposal, concerning convening a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and operating procedures, and proposed convening the first meeting of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting in Pyongyang on 26 August.

However, from the first meeting, the South side reversed its original stand that it had responded to our proposal for convening a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and created artificial obstacles to discussing issues. As a result, three meetings between delegates of both sides were held; an individual contact between the delegation heads was held; and following this, the fourth meeting was again held on this day.

In this meeting, both sides greeted each other and conversed with each other. After this, they began discussing basic issues. According to the custom, the South side spoke first. It repeated its unjust stand, which it had so far assumed, and proposed discussing only the Olympic issue in the fourth meeting, without advancing any new proposal.

When the senior delegate of the South side finished his remarks, Chon Kum-chol, head of our side's delegation, asked him whether he had come up with a new proposal. The South side's senior delegate said he had no new proposal. Our side's delegation expressed regret over the fact that the South side had not come up with a new good proposal today and delivered a basic speech containing magnanimity and concessions.

First, he stated that we consider it very regrettable that those politicians who have arranged this meeting with the grave responsibility and duty of resolving urgent problems without a moment's delay, in conformity with the common interests of the nation, should need to hold the meeting as many as four times as a result of the failure to explore points in common through mutual understanding and concessions. He noted that our delegation had believed without any doubt that our delegations would conclude the meeting after only a single round of discussion and that today, 26 August, they

would be convening the first round of a historic North-South joint parliamentary meeting in Pyongyang amid the wishes of the Korean people and the people of the world. He noted that the proposal for convening a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and discussing at that meeting the question of nonaggression and the question of the Olympics—which our side put forth to the South side through the letter dated 20 July—is a most reasonable measure that those politicians who are concerned even a little about the fate of the nation and who listen to the voices of the people of all walks of life should find no problem in accepting.

He went on to say: Talking about the form of joint parliamentary meeting proposed by our side is a most active negotiation method that makes it possible to gather and reflect the opinions and wisdom of the masses of all walks of life in discussing and solving the grave matters of the nation. In reality, countless people of all walks of life, as well as political parties and organizations, are coming out with diverse assertions on reunification in South Korea. They themselves object to a certain group's monopoly of North-South dialogue and more strongly demand that they participate in dialogue with the North than ever before to directly reflect their opinions in resolving the problem of reunification. When the parliamentary politicians in the North and the South hold negotiations, we should not ignore these assertions and demands of the people of all walks of life, but explore methods of negotiation that would maximally accept them. Consequently, it can be said that the best method of negotiations to fully reflect the opinions and desires of the people of all walks of life in the North and the South at present is holding a joint parliamentary meeting in which all the lawmakers of the two sides, who are elected by the people, and representatives of other political parties and organizations and figures from all walks of life participate.

Delegation head Chon Kum-chol said: When it comes to the agenda items, our side's proposal is, in every respect, reasonable. After saying this, he went on to say:

Needless to discuss further, the most pressing problems today, the settlement of which can no longer be delayed between the North and the South, are preventing war and solving the problem of the 24th Olympic Games such that they may serve to promote national reconciliation and unity, not division and confrontation. Should another war break out in our country because our politicians fail to take practical measures to ease tension while only paying lip service to easing the tension, we will not even talk about national reconciliation, dialogue, and reunification; our nation will not be able to avoid irreversible calamities; and the nation will be reduced to ruin. Our politicians cannot just be observers in this tragic situation, but must prevent the outbreak of war in our country at any cost. Toward this end, there is no other way but to discuss and solve problems that concern the draft declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South, which our side sent to the South side.

Our side's delegation head went on to say:

At present, ardently hoping that the issue of the 24th Olympics would be settled according to the common interest of the nation and its aspiration for reunification and, thus, a true festival of national reconciliation and unity would be held, all compatriots acknowledge that the way to this is North-South cohosting of the Olympics.

If the politicians of the North and South deeply realize such a wish of the people and settle the issue of the 24th Olympics according to the common interest of the nation and its aspiration for reunification, an epochal phase will be created in our country for national reconciliation and unity, and a bright vista will open for peaceful reunification in the future.

Delegation head Chon Kum-chol mentioned the fact that, despite such sincerity and magnanimity on the part of our side, the South side, from the beginning, put forth totally irrational assertions, insisted on them to the bitter end, and created difficulties for the discussion of the issues even by altering matters already agreed upon. Then, he went on to add:

Above all, in connection with the format of the meeting, the South side is unconditionally opposed to our proposal for a joint parliamentary meeting on the sole pretext that efficiency cannot be enhanced because it would be complicated if many people were to participate in it.

The assertion of the South side that the format of the meeting should be talks of representatives with the participation of a few people can only be construed as an attempt to block the reflection of the majority in discussing and settling the important national matters. In connection with our proposal for a joint meeting, the South side is opposing it with the pretext that there has never been a precedent for such a meeting in the world.

No matter what other countries may do, we have no need to dogmatically follow them but should unhesitatingly adopt a meeting format that is appropriate and beneficial to settling the internal matters of our nation.

What should not be overlooked is that the South side is opposed to the joint conference while making remarks that it is impossible for all the parliamentarians to hold mutual visits in the North and the South because parliamentarians are busy.

As we have already clearly pointed out, nothing is more important and urgent for the parliamentarians of both sides than to resolve the issue of national reunification.

Our side's delegation head went on to say:

Even more regretable concerning discussion of the agenda is that though both sides agreed to limit the agenda to three items thanks to our side's concession

during the second meeting, and though both sides reached complete agreement on the contents of two of the three issues, the South side attempted to overturn this agreement at the third meeting.

As a matter of fact, the South side agreed to deal with the issue of summit talks and to include the issue of Olympics on the agenda by accepting the assertions of both sides during the second meeting. Nevertheless, at the third meeting, the South side again put forward its previous assertions, thus revealing its intention to stall for time with agenda issues.

Consequently, because of the insincere position and attitude of the South side, the first meeting of the North-South joint parliamentary meeting could not be held on 26 August, the date originally scheduled. In view of all this, we cannot but doubt that the South side is interested in dialogue with us, that the South side is prepared to resolve the issue of easing tension and the issue of Olympics in the common interests of the nation, and that the South side has the will for reunification.

Delegation head Chon Kum-chol stressed that we, the politicians, should not waste time adhering to assertions at this urgent time when deciding between reconciliation or confrontation and war or peace.

He said that, out of this position, we put forth the following proposals to save our meeting which has reached a deadlock, to realize the historic North-South parliamentary negotiations at an early date, and to take the assertions made by the South side at the third meeting into consideration:

First, the form of the meeting.

The negotiation between the parliaments of the North and the South shall assume the form of a joint meeting in which parliamentarians of the North and the South participate. The question of inviting representatives of political parties and organizations with no seats in the parliaments and personages of various circles to the North-South joint parliamentary meeting shall be shelved and discussed at the plenary session.

Second, the following agenda shall be discussed at the North-South joint parliamentary meeting:

1. The question of announcing a joint declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South.
2. The question of cohosting the 24th Olympic Games by the North and the South and the question of inviting the North side's sports team to the games.
3. The question of realizing multilateral cooperation and exchange between the North and the South.

Third, the date and venue of the first session:

The sooner the first session of a North-South combined parliamentary meeting is held, the better. The first session shall discuss the question of the 24th Olympic Games as an urgent agenda item. The first session of the North-South combined parliamentary meeting shall be held in Pyongyang.

Chon Kum-chol, the head of our side's delegation, finally indicating that our new proposal is another clear demonstration of our sincere efforts to advance our meeting at any cost and is a fair and aboveboard proposal that fully reflects the demands of the South said, said: We expect that the South side will make a courageous decision to accept our new epochal proposal.

Concluding his remarks the head of our side's delegation expressed his regret over the fact that the South side did not bring any new proposals to today's meeting. Then, indicating that because of the South side's insincere position not only the first session of the North-South joint parliamentary meeting which was to be held on 26 August could not be held, but also the question of cohosting the Olympics has become endangered he urged the South side to show sincerity toward the meeting.

While expressing its understanding that the new proposal of ours is not only a go-ahead and developed [chonjin jokimyo palchonjok] one, but is also an expression of the North side's sincerity to make the meeting between the two sides successful, the South side refused to accept the new proposal containing our concessions.

The South side created deliberate obstacles in the way of the talks, wasting time with arguments about the procedures of steering the North-South combined parliamentary meeting, the method of adopting motions, and so forth, and insisted on having talks between parliamentary delegates as it proposed earlier.

In this regard, our side urged the South side to clarify its stand toward our side's new proposal. Our side, indicating that the the procedures of steering the talks and the method of adopting motions can be discussed as (?detailed) procedures after our new proposal for convening a North-South combined parliamentary meeting has been discussed and decided on, stressed that the South side should not complicate discussions of problems by (?combining) the form of the talks and their procedures, but should present its opinion on the combined parliamentary meeting or other alternatives, if any.

However, the South side did not show any change in its stand, stating that it was absolutely opposed to any meeting save talks between parliamentary delegates.

Our side demanded that the South side sincerely study our side's alternative with regard to the format of talks and give its opinion on the alternative and urged the South side to begin discussing the question of agenda items.

However, the South side reiterated its unjust assertion that the single agenda item of the question of the Olympics be discussed at talks between parliamentary delegates, the assertion that it came up with in a bid to prove the convocation of North-South joint parliamentary meeting would be aborted. Thus, the South side desperately opposed discussing the question of agenda items. The South side openly insisted on its single-handed hosting of the 24th Olympics, declaring that it opposed cohosting the Olympics.

The head of our side sharply called the South side to account for its wrong stand and stance, comparing our side's proposal with that of the South side.

The head of our side pointed out the South side's insincere attitude and stand, citing detailed examples of this, saying: Our side made the concession of changing from a joint parliamentary meeting to a combined parliamentary meeting in the question of the form of meeting, put off discussions of the question of participation of representatives of other political parties and organizations and personages of various circles, and, instead, proposed that the question be discussed at a plenary meeting. However, the South side stubbornly insisted on talks between parliamentary delegates only. On the question of agenda items, too, our side agreed to include three agenda items by adding two new agenda items, in addition to the question of announcing a joint declaration of nonaggression, after accepting the South side's opinion. However, the South side proposed five agenda items from the beginning, withheld some of them during the meeting, and then insisted on the original five agenda items again, going back again even on problems agreed upon. Thus, the South side, in fact, did not make any concessions on the question of agenda items.

The head of our side indicated that in the South side's attitude nothing was changed from that held in the preliminary contact for parliamentary talks of 1985 and that it still was employing delaying tactics without renouncing its consciousness of confrontation.

Our side's delegates also indicated the insincere and indifferent stand and attitude of the South side, citing the examples that at the third round of meeting the South side did not designate the date of the fourth round of the meeting; that at the individual meeting of the heads of both sides the head of the South side did not present any proposal; that today, too, he came to the meeting without any new proposal, thereby bringing the meeting to a crisis; and that, as opposed to our side, leading lawmakers of the South Korean National Assembly, including speaker, are travelling abroad, while paying no attention to the meeting between the parliaments of the North and the South, an important national event.

The head of our side demanded that the South side make a deeper study of our new proposal and produce an advanced proposal at the fifth round of the meeting and repeatedly advised it to propose a date.

Surprisingly enough, the South side offered to put off the fifth round of the meeting until October. Saying that such a stand on the part of the South side was a (?plot) to evade settling the question of the Olympics and that this was a very grave act, our side stressed that this was a very irresponsible act ignoring the desire of the whole nation.

Saying that the meeting, which the entire nation is watching, should not be put off until October and that the fifth round of the meeting should be held in August, the head of our side proposed to have it on 29 August. However, the South side evaded giving an answer to this. It also unconditionally opposed our proposal to have the fifth round of the meeting on 27 or 30 August.

At this time, the head of the South side even rose from his seat and, thus, evaded designating the date of the fifth round of the meeting.

For such an unwarranted attitude of the South side, the head of our side asked: Are we to understand that your side's assertion of putting off the fifth round of the meeting until October, not in August, means that the South side does not want to resolve the question of the Olympics? Are we to believe that you have regarded greeting foreigners as being more important than an important event for our nation? Then, the head of our side stressed that the South side should assume responsibility for such an attitude before the nation.

Our side demanded that the South side designate the exact date of the fifth round of the meeting. However, the South side refused to designate the exact date of the fifth round of the meeting. So, our side proposed to have the fifth round of the meeting at Tongilgak of our side on 13 October. The South side agreed to this.

The head of our side gave a news briefing for reporters after the meeting.

Daily Refutes U.S. Trying To Prevent Terrorism

SK2608052988 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0515 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Pyongyang August 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today refutes the claim of the U.S. State Department in its recent "White Paper on State Terrorism" that the United States is trying to "prevent terrorism."

Branding the "white paper" as a humbug reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!," the paper says in a signed commentary:

It is the height of sarcasm for the U.S. imperialists who are steeped to the marrow in terrorism to dare to come up with accusations against others.

And it must not be overlooked that the U.S. State Department in the "white paper" cried over the "possibility of someone's terrorism aiming at obstructing the

Seoul Olympics" and called for intensifying "cooperation" among the United States, Japan and South Korea to "prevent" it. "Possibility of terrorism" on the lips of the U.S. imperialists is a shield to justify their anti-DPRK campaign.

Their attempt to shift the responsibility for the tensions they have created on to others is to prepare a new state terrorism against us.

Their open clamours for the intensification of "cooperation" among the United States, Japan and South Korea this time prove that they are going to give rise to a shocking incident if necessary and make a pretext of it for military provocation against the DPRK.

By kicking up a row with the "white paper" they are trying to put a brand of terrorism on and internationally isolate those revolutionary and progressive countries which go against the grain with them and those peoples who have an anti-U.S., independent stand, and to intensify aggression and state terrorism against these countries under the cloak of the "prevention of terrorism."

This brings into bolder relief the vicious nature of the U.S. imperialists, chieftain of state terrorism, and constitutes a danger signal that they may commit a new global terrorism under the signboard of "anti-terrorism."

Their criminal attempt should be thwarted and frustrated in time.

Peace Zones Established in 'War' on Masses

SK2508120188 *(Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea* 0200 GMT
17 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In this hour of station commentary, I will talk about the fact that the No Tae-u group has decided to establish the so-called Olympic peace zones in areas where Olympic events will be held and along roads where the Olympic torch will be relayed, and to ban demonstrations and assemblies in these areas and roads until the end of October.

As has been reported, on 16 August, the No Tae-u group decided to put into force, from 17 August, a law effective during a limited period of time that it fabricated on 23 July. It announced that it had established the so-called Olympic peace zones in 11 areas, including Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju, where Olympic events will take place; in 5 areas, including Incheon and Anyang, where facilities for training are located; in 3 areas, including Chonan, where sports science seminars will take place; in 21 areas that are designated as places where the Olympic torch will stop; and a 1 km-wide area on both sides of the roads where the cycling event will take place and where the Olympic torch will be relayed. Moreover, the No Tae-u group banned assemblies and demonstrations,

except academic, religious, and artistic gatherings, wedding ceremonies, funerals, and ancestor worship, in Seoul from 17 August to 31 October; in other areas—where Olympic events will take place and where facilities for training are located—from 17 August until two days after the events are over; in areas where sports science seminars will take place, from 17 August to 17 September; and in areas where the Olympic torch will pass, from 17 August until the relay of the Olympic torch is over. It also threatened to punish those who violate this ban on charges of violating the Law Concerning Assemblies and Demonstrations. As blackmail tantamount to issuing a martial law decree throughout the country, this is a declaration of all-out war against the patriotic masses of all walks of life who demand independence, democracy, and reunification.

As you know, it is expected that the masses of all walks of life will more violently than ever wage a struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification during this period from 17 August to the end of October. This is clearly evidenced by the facts that the National Council of University Student Representatives has decided to hold a greater national meeting around the end of August where Korean residents living overseas and peace-loving organizations of foreign countries will also be present. It has designated the period from early September to early October as a period of a pan-national practical movement for peace and reunification. During this period, a campaign will be conducted to collect 1 million signatures to realize the cohosting of the Olympics and during which mask dramas, mock trials, and other events exposing the antireunification and antimass nature of the unilaterally-hosted Olympics will take place. This trend, which is expected to prevail throughout the country from mid-August to the end of October, gives great uneasiness and horror to the No Tae-u group. The No Tae-u group is making desperate efforts to suppress, using guns and bayonets, the righteous struggle of the patriotic masses of all walks of life, who demand that the U.S. forces be withdrawn from South Korea and that the Olympics be cohosted; to, thereby, unilaterally host the Olympic at all costs and to provide a favorable international environment for extending its military rule and fixing division; and to resolve the crisis facing U.S. colonial rule and the No Tae-u group's military dictatorial system.

For this very reason, the No Tae-u group fabricated the fascist law effective during a limited period of time and put this law into force based upon its judgment that unless it suppresses, using guns and bayonets, the righteous struggle of the people of all walks of life, who demand that the U.S. forces be withdrawn from South Korea, that the dictatorship be overthrown, and that the Olympics be cohosted, it will not be able to smoothly host the divisive Olympics. And then it would not be able to realize its initial criminal attempts to provide a favorable environment for blocking reunification and fixing division through the unilaterally hosted Olympics and to resolve the crisis facing the U.S. colonial rule and the current military dictatorial system. However, no

matter how frantically it may wield guns and bayonets, the No Tae-u group will not be able to suppress our people's just struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification.

The No Tae-u group must immediately give up its criminal attempt to eternally divide the country and the nation into two by bestially suppressing, using the law effective during a limited period of time, the people who demand independence, democracy, and reunification and by forcibly and unilaterally hosting the Olympic; must revoke this law, which will engulf all of the country in the horrific state of an emergency decree; and must resign from office without any delay as demanded by our people and the whole nation. If it, rejecting this demand of our people and the whole nation, suppresses our people's just struggle using guns and bayonets and unilaterally hosts the Olympic at any cost, the No Tae-u group will in no way be able to evade the miserable destiny which the dictators preceding him met.

South Korea

Agreement Reached on Relocating U.S. Embassy
SK2608013088 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
25 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Following the agreement on removing the U.S. 8th Army in Yongsan to a local area, the two governments of Korea and the United States reached a final agreement recently on removing the U.S. Embassy and American Cultural Center to the former site of Kyonggi Girl's High School. It is learned that they have agreed to conclude a contract on the exchange of buildings and land within this year.

According to the relevant organization on 24 August, the governments of the two countries have agreed to exchange the buildings of the U.S. Embassy in Sejongro, Chongno-gu, Seoul, and of the cultural center in Ulchiro 1 ga, Chung-gu, with the 5,000-pyong (1 pyong equals 3.3 square meters) land in Chongdong, Chung-gu, the former site of Kyonggi Girl's High School. The U.S. Government agreed to pay in cash the difference incurring in the exchange to the Seoul Municipal Office.

It is also learned that the U.S. Government has secured a budget of 7 million dollars (equivalent to 5 billion won) based on the estimate made by the Korea Appraisal Board on the balance in the price of the land.

The land on which the U.S. Embassy is on is about 2,000 pyong and its total floor space is approximately 3,000 pyong, and the land the cultural center is on is 1,300 pyong. The government is reviewing a plan to use the U.S. Embassy building as a government building and to sell the cultural center building to the general public.

The governments of the two countries also agreed to demolish part of the buildings used as living quarters for members of the U.S. Embassy located in Songhyondong,

Chongno-gu to enable the road adjoining the building to be expanded according to the city planning of the Seoul Municipal Office, with a view to relieve traffic congestion in this area.

The negotiations on the issue of the construction of the new buildings of the embassy and cultural center are still underway between the governments of the two countries.

The issue of removing the U.S. Embassy and cultural center was first raised by the Korean Government in 1980. In 1984, the two sides agreed to move only the embassy to the site of Kyonggi Girl's High School. However, the agreement was cancelled due to the difference in negotiation conditions put forth by the two sides and to the opposition of the alumnae of Kyonggi Girl's High School.

The present U.S. Embassy building was completed in 1961 with U.S. Government funds on land owned by the Korean Government according to the agreement between the Korean Government and the U.S. Operations Mission [USOM] which stipulated that USOM and its successive organizations will use the building until the ROK-U.S. Mutual Security Treaty is effective.

Since then, this building was used by the U.S. Agency of International Development in Korea [USAIDK]. In 1968, the U.S. Embassy moved into this building and has been using it so far.

With the ending of the USAIDK mission in September 1980, the building should have been turned over to the Korean Government. However, the U.S. Government continued to use this building under the consent of the Korean Government, presenting the reason that the U.S. Embassy carries out part of the mission of the USAIDK and that time is required in securing land to build a new office building.

On the other hand, the Korean Government worked out a policy of receiving the facilities within Korea that are not necessary to the United States and of inducing the removal of U.S. facilities located in the center of large cities including Seoul to the outskirts and local areas. It is learned that the Korean Government is going to negotiate with the U.S. Government on the issue of receiving the Naeja Hotel located in Choksondong, Chongno-gu.

The government is also reportedly reviewing the issue of removing the "Seoul Club" in Chungjongro 2 Ka and the U.S. Engineer Corps located in Ulchiro 5 Ka, the site of the former Sadae High School.

4th Round of Parliamentary Talks Conducted

Meeting Scheduled

SK2608004988 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 24 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] South and north Korean parliamentary delegations will meet at Panmunjom today for their fourth round of talks.

Negotiations are expected to focus on the format and the agenda for a full-dress lawmakers' conference between the two sides.

The two sides failed to straighten out their differences on those topics in the previous sessions that ended Monday.

The fourth round of preparatory contact was agreed on in a private meeting Wednesday between the chief delegates.

Today's talks, scheduled at the Peace House in the southern sector of the truce village, will be attended by a five-member delegation from each side.

The meeting will virtually decide whether south and north Korea will be able to hold the conference among lawmakers, officials said.

The southern delegation will ask the north to change its position and show sincerity in efforts to realize the parliamentary conference, they said.

Delegates from the south are also expected to propose again that 20 representatives from each side meet in Pyongyang next Monday for discussion of north Korea's participation in the Seoul Olympics, they added.

Today's meeting will be an open session as in the previous ones.

Parliamentarians Begin Talks

OW2608015988 Tokyo KYODO in English
0141 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Aug. 26 KYODO—North and South Korean delegates started their fourth round of preliminary talks Friday to prepare for parliamentary talks between the two Koreas at the South Korean site in the truce village of Panmunjom.

In three previous talks held last Friday, Saturday and Monday, the delegates failed to agree on who will participate in the parliamentary talks and what should be discussed.

North Korea insisted that all parliamentarians as well as 50 other delegates from various groups from each side should attend the talks, while South Korea said 20 parliamentary delegates each should attend the talks.

On agenda items, North Korean representatives said a nonaggression pact should be a key item, but South Korea stressed the key topic should be North Korea's participation in the Seoul Olympics, which starts on September 17.

South Korean delegates had proposed a parliamentary meeting to discuss only the Olympic games on August 29, but North Korea rejected the proposal.

This led to a shelved meeting in the third round on Monday. Korean delegates, however, agreed on the fourth round of preliminary talks on Wednesday.

South Rejects North 'Compromise'

OW2608050088 Tokyo KYODO in English
0439 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Aug. 26 KYODO—North Korea on Friday made new compromise proposals for parliamentary talks between the two parts of Korea in the fourth round of preliminary talks with South Korea in Panmunjom, dropping two key demands, informed sources said.

The sources said the North Korean delegation proposed at the meeting that the first round of parliamentary talks be attended by all parliamentarians from North and South Korea, without other representatives from various groups and that the first session discuss the Olympic games as an urgent agenda item. The first session should be held as early as possible in Pyongyang, the proposal also said.

South Korean delegates, however, rejected the new proposals, saying they are not changed in the substance of the original proposals. [sentence as received]

In the three previous rounds of the preliminary talks, the North Korean side insisted that 50 delegates each from various groups in addition to all parliamentarians from both parts of Korea should attend the talks and that the key agenda item should be a nonaggression pact.

At the start of Friday's talks, the South Korean delegation criticized what they called the North Korean delegates' inflexibility in spite of the South's concessions, and reiterated that an emergency plenary session should be held on August 29 in Pyongyang to discuss only the Olympic games, the sources said.

To break through the stalemate in the preliminary talks that started last Friday, the North Korean side extended the compromise proposals, the sources said.

The North Korean delegates said the issue of inviting representatives from various groups other than parliamentarians could be discussed at the plenary session, the sources said.

Other agenda items North Korean delegates proposed at the meeting included the publication of a joint declaration on nonaggression between North and South Korea and exchanges and cooperation in many fields between the North and the South.

But South Korea said again that the plenary session should be attended by 20 parliamentary representatives from each side and resolutions coming up in the session should be adopted by a joint meeting later which would be attended by all lawmakers from both sides.

Next Talks Set for 11 October

SK2608071788 Seoul YONHAP in English
0714 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea's efforts to encourage North Korea to take part in the Seoul Olympic games ended in failure Friday as a fourth round of talks between the parliamentary delegates of the two sides ruptured.

The parliamentary delegates of South and North Korea, meeting in this truce village for the fourth time in a series of talks which began last week seeking to clear the way for full-scale inter-Korean parliamentary talks, agreed only to resume their contacts on Oct. 13, 11 days after the Seoul games close.

The three-hour meeting held at the North Korean pavilion ended in a deadlock after the delegates failed again to narrow their differences on the format and agenda of the full-scale talks which have marred their previous sessions.

South Korean delegates repeatedly called for urgent talks of 20 lawmakers from each side on Aug. 29 in Pyongyang to discuss the Olympics, but the North stuck to its initial demand for a joint session of the two parliaments with all their members attending for a declaration of non-aggression.

The North dropped its initial proposal that representatives of political parties and social organizations also attend the joint session, but demanded that the full-scale session follow majority rule.

South Korean delegates countered that the North's demand for majority rule is unreasonable for the joint session where all 655 members of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly and the 299 members of the South Korean National Assembly would attend.

The North rejected the South Korean offer that a meeting of 20 delegates from each parliament be held first to be followed by a joint session to ratify the agreements reached in the delegates' talks.

After the meeting ruptured, South Korean chief delegate Pak Chun-kyu charged that the North Korean side has intended to dampen the festive mood of the Seoul Olympics through the four rounds of contact.

If the North maintains the same attitude as today in the future contact, I will be disappointed, he said.

Pak made it clear that he had conveyed a message to the North that the two sides can meet again within this month if the North brings up a detailed alternative to its proposals.

North Korea has been boycotting the Seoul games demanding to co-host the Olympics while maintaining throughout the four rounds of talks between the parliamentary delegates that it will not take part in the games unless its co-host demand is met.

'Obstacles' Noted in Talks

SK2608083288 *Seoul Domestic Service in Korean*
0400 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] [Announcer Kim Ki-sok] The fourth preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks started at 1100 [0100 GMT] this morning at Peace House in Panmunjom. The North Korean side proposed holding a combined meeting [haptong hoeui]. However, it did not change its basic stand that a meeting be held in the format of mass rally attended by all the parliamentarians of both sides. Therefore, both sides again failed to reach an agreement. Reporter Kim Chun-sok is now at the secretariat for the North-South dialogue. Hello, reporter Kim. Would you explain the details of the revised proposal of the North Korean side?

[Reporter Kim Chun-sok] In today's contact, Chon Kum-chol, head of the North Korean side's delegation, proposed that North-South parliamentary negotiations take place in the format of a combined meeting that the parliamentarians of the North and South would jointly attend, withholding the issue of having representatives of parties and social organizations that have no seat in the parliaments and personages of all other walks of life attend this meeting, and discussing this issue in the main meeting. Delegation head Chon Kum-chol also proposed as the agenda of this combined meeting the issue of announcing a joint declaration on nonaggression between the North and South, the issue of the North-South cohosting of the 24th Olympic Games, the issue of inviting the North Korean side's team to the Olympics, and the issue of realizing multifaceted cooperation and exchanges between the North and South. Delegation head Chon also said that the earlier the first meeting of the North-South combined parliamentary meeting is held, the better, and proposed holding the first meeting in Pyongyang, where the issue of the Olympic games would be placed on the agenda as an urgent agenda item. In addition, delegation head Chon proposed adopting majority rule in deciding on issues in the North-South combined parliamentary meeting.

[Kim Ki-sok] How did our side respond to this?

[Kim Chun-sok] Our side pointed out that the North Korean side made a revised proposal by changing only the title of the meeting from joint meeting to combined meeting and that it did not change its basic stand on the format of a mass rally. Our side retorted that by advancing this proposal, the North Korean side consequently recognized that the issue of reunification and the Olympic issue cannot be extensively discussed [as heard]. Our side pointed out that majority rule, as the North Korean side proposed, is unreasonable in a meeting that the 299

lawmakers on our side and the 655 SPA deputies on the North Korean side would attend and that a meeting must be held where an equal number of parliamentarians of the North and South, and a realistic number of them, would attend. Our side proposed holding a meeting between 20 parliamentary delegates of each side, where a substantial agreement would be reached, and the confirmation and approval of this would occur at the combined meeting. Our side also proposed holding talks between parliamentary delegates before holding a combined meeting. However, the North Korean side proposed discussing again detailed working matters and avoided mentioning anything further.

[Kim Ki-sok] Obstacles still exist. However, knotty problems seem to be gradually resolved. I can hear much noise from there. How is the atmosphere there?

[Kim Chun-sok] A tense atmosphere is being felt at the close of the meeting. The senior delegates of both sides again explained the format of the talks and the agenda, which they have presented so far, in detail. In his keynote speech, Pak Chun-kyu, senior delegate of our side, expressed our stand on today's talks and proposed holding North-South parliamentary talks in Pyongyang on 29 August to discuss only the Olympic issue as an urgent agenda item. Chon Kum-chol, head of the delegation of the North Korean side, verbosely explained his basic stand for approximately 30 minutes; said that he would advance a new proposal at the close of his keynote speech; and proposed holding the first meeting of a combined parliamentary meeting—that all the parliamentarians of both sides would attend—in Pyongyang at the earliest possible date. Our side's delegates continuously asked questions about some points not clear in the North Korean side's proposal. However, the North Korean side avoided any comment and proposed discussing again detailed working matters.

Simultaneously speaking voices that could not be understood were heard on many occasions in today's meeting. This made us feel that the atmosphere was very tense. When the opinions of both sides proved to be very different, both sides practically ended today's talks and are now discussing the timing of the next talks. This has been a report from the secretariat for the North-South dialogue.

Broadcasting Union Strike May Threaten Olympics

OW2608055188 *Tokyo KYODO in English*
0509 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 KYODO—The labor union of Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) called an all-out strike Friday demanding a nomination system for choosing chief editors to ensure that editing functions are not influenced by management.

Although MBC's management is trying to continue broadcasting with some 1,400 nonunion members, they were unable to present their regular newscast at 7 a.m. because strikers blocked the entrance of the station's news center.

A committee of district labor unions in Seoul Thursday began efforts to mediate the labor dispute saying that a public organization cannot go on strike. They said a work stoppage at this time may seriously interfere with the Seoul Olympics.

According to South Korean labor laws, strikes are prohibited during a 15-day mediation period, making the MBC labor union's strike Friday illegal.

Culture and Information Minister Chung Hwan Mo said Friday that the MBC labor union's strike is an act which will eventually obstruct the Olympic games.

The MBC labor union has been negotiating with management since June requesting that the MBC president resign and that the chief editor be chosen from those nominated by company workers. Union and management are still wide apart on these issues although agreements on some other issues have been reached.

No May Visit ASEAN Nations After Olympics
SK2508003188 Seoul YONHAP in English
0047 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 25 (YONHAP)—The government is pushing ahead with summit diplomacy by President No Tae-u, with Japan and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries among the nations being considered for No to visit, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said Wednesday.

However, no details have been fixed for No's itineraries, Choe told reporters on his return from Islamabad, Pakistan, where he attended the funeral of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq.

Choe said that during his stay in Pakistan, he met with Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and exchanged views on security for the upcoming Seoul Olympics. Choe also said he agreed with Uno that the 15th annual Korea-Japan cabinet meeting in Seoul should be held between mid-November and late December.

Choe said he requested, in his meeting with Uno, that Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita explain South Korea's national defense policy to China during his visit to Beijing scheduled to start Thursday. Seoul and Beijing have no diplomatic ties despite growing trade and sports exchanges.

Choe said he also met with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and discussed ways to jointly participate in reconstruction projects in Iran and Iraq, and that Ozal proposed that Korean Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae visit Turkey soon for further discussions on the matter.

Choe said he also met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe to explain South Korea's defense policy and the ongoing inter-Korean parliamentary talks and asked for their cooperation in both areas.

Choe, however, denied reports that he met with senior Chinese officials during his stopover at Beijing Airport on his way to Pakistan.

Police Search for Possible Japanese Terrorist
SK2608005588 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 26 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] A Japanese man by the name of Hiroyaki Kawamura, who is on a list of known terrorists, entered Korea, Seoul police said yesterday.

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Bureau is checking whether the man is the terrorist being sought by Japanese police, a spokesman for the bureau said.

He said Kawamura came to Korea "some time ago." The Korean side did not receive a tipoff from Japanese police about his entry into Korea, the spokesman said.

Other details were not made available.

Kim Tae-chung Meets Kirkpatrick, Lilley
SK2608001188 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung exchanged issues of mutual concern with visiting former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick and U.S. Amb. to Korea James R. Lilley over breakfast at his home yesterday.

One of the participants at the meeting said the former UN ambassador, now a columnist, showed keen interest in Korea's domestic political development and South-North dialogue.

He quoted Kim as having said that there are two types of dictatorial regimes in Asia—one backed by the military and the other backed by civilians. "The military-backed dictatorial regimes are more corrupt than the civilian-backed ones," Kim was quoted as saying.

He said there is no severe income gap among the people in Taiwan and Singapore, where civilian-backed dictatorial regimes have been in power for a long time, not like a country which has been led by a military-backed dictatorial regime.

On the unification issue, Kim was quoted as having said that there will be no immediate reunification between Seoul and Pyongyang but that democratic governments must be set up in the South and the North before the two Koreas attempt to unify the divided country.

Minister's Resignation Demanded Over Assault

Assembly Leaders Launch Probe

SK2608001588 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] The floor leaders of the four ruling and opposition parties yesterday agreed to convene an extra meeting of the Assembly Defense Committee today to handle a recent assault on a journalist allegedly by four military servicemen.

The agreement came shortly after an announcement by the Defense Ministry that the four including a major were arrested on suspicion of attacking O Hong-kun, an editor of a vernacular economic daily, seemingly for dissatisfaction with his articles.

Terming the incident as a tangible infringement against the free press, the rival parties urged the administration to conduct a thorough investigation into the possible background to the attack.

In a statement, the Democratic Justice Party said, "We demand that the government discover all the facts about the daylight assault and the stern punishment of the criminals."

After a meeting of officials, ruling party secretary general Pak Chun-pyong told Defense Committee chairman Yu Hak-song to hold an extraordinary session of the panel.

The Party for Peace and Democracy pressed the government to settle public suspicion about the "military crime" through rigid investigation and to take every preventive step against such a terror.

Claiming that there might be masterminds behind the incident, PPD spokesman Yi Sang-su said, "The public suspicion is mounting because the authorities had postponed investigation until the incident developed into a political issue recently."

"We feel greatly shocked and angered to hear that the assault was made by an active Army major and three non-commissioned officers," he said in a statement.

Choe Hyong-u, floor leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, argued that it is widely suspected that the incident had been "adroitly plotted" in that the authorities could have delayed the investigation amid the nationwide alert before the Olympics.

He said that his party would center on the revelation of motives and background to the incident in the Defense Committee session.

The PPD called for the convocation of the Home Affairs Committee as well as the Defense Committee.

O 'Likely' To Resign

SK2608025288 Seoul YONHAP in English
0202 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister O Cha-pok is likely to be forced to resign assuming moral responsibility for an incident in which a journalist was assaulted by soldiers of an Army intelligence unit, a highly placed government source said Friday.

In light of the incident's importance, it will be unavoidable for the head of the soldiers' unit and other superiors to take responsibility, the source said. Also, the defense minister won't be able to shun his moral responsibility.

Amid growing public furor, the defense ministry announced Thursday that it has arrested a major identified as Pak Chol-su and three noncommissioned officers, all members of an Army intelligence unit, as suspects in the Aug. 6 assault against O Hong-kun.

O, city editor of the CHUNGANG ECONOMIC DAILY, was stabbed in the left thigh by a group of men who identified themselves as counter-espionage agents near his apartment in southern Seoul on the morning of Aug. 6.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly will convene its defense committee Friday afternoon to probe the incident during which time Defense Minister O will report the results of the investigation by military authorities.

Opposition lawmakers, who are planning to demand the immediate dismissal of the defense minister and the head of the Army intelligence unit in question, are expected to concentrate on why the military investigation authorities waited to join in the probes until some 18 days after the assault despite widespread rumors of the military's involvement.

The opposition lawmakers will also make efforts to determine whether the military has delayed the investigations and concealed possible masterminds behind the assault.

The second largest opposition Reunification Democratic Party headed by Kim Yong-sam has demanded that President No Tae-u immediately Dismiss Minister O saying that his party cannot tolerate the direct involvement of a military investigative unit in such an incident.

Shortly after the assault, police confirmed that a license plate number, which a security guard at O's apartment said was that of a car believed to have been used by the attackers, was registered with an Army intelligence unit.

However, the military investigation authorities denied the involvement of a military vehicle in the incident and refused to cooperate with police investigators.

The Defense Ministry announced the arrest of the suspects only one day after the military investigation authorities joined in the investigation.

Assembly Questions Minister O

SK2608080288 Seoul YONHAP in English
0754 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister O Cha-pok told the National Assembly Friday that an assault on a Seoul newspaper editor was found to have been committed by an officer and three non-commissioned officers of an Army intelligence command as a punitive act against the journalist for his criticism of the military through an article he had written.

The minister said during an interpellation session in the Assembly's defense committee, that the four men, including an Army major, confessed that they had decided to seek revenge against the editor for his article titled, the Military Culture That Should Be Removed, carried in his column in a monthly magazine.

O Hong-kun, city editor of the CHUNGANG ECONOMIC DAILY, said in the article that many problems in Korean society were mainly attributable to the widespread military culture and that such culture should be eradicated.

South Korean Army criminal investigative detectives (CID) arrested the four as suspects in the assault.

O was stabbed in the left thigh by a group of men near his apartment on Aug. 6. As the assault against the journalist was found to have been perpetrated by the four military personnel, the opposition parties immediately urged the government to dismiss the defense minister.

The opposition also claimed that the Army authorities had tried to conceal the culprits behind the assault by delaying the investigation into the case. The Defense Ministry, however, denied the opposition's charge.

Opposition Demands Dismissal

SK2608114788 Seoul YONHAP in English
1139 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Opposition party members of the National Defense Committee of the National Assembly Friday called for an immediate dismissal of Defense Minister O Cha-pok, accusing him of responsibility over a recent assault by a group of Army men on a journalist.

The committee also urged the government to punish every military personnel involved in the terrorist act against the city editor of the CHUNGANG ECONOMIC DAILY, irrespective of their rank and position.

In an interpellation session of the committee, in which Minister O and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Yi Chong-ku attended, Rep. Kwon No-kap of the Party for Peace and Democracy, and other opposition party members called on President No Tae-u to clarify his position to bring light to the truth behind the incident.

Editor O Hong-kun was stabbed in the thigh by a group of young men near his home last Aug. 8. The incident has been the center of keen public attention since then after a passenger car, which was found near the scene of the assault by an apartment guard, turned out to be belonging to an Army intelligence unit.

The defense ministry, in a surprise announcement last Thursday, disclosed that a group of four Army men, including an Army major, attacked O out of their personal resentment over his criticism against the military. O allegedly attacked the legacies of military culture left over from former regimes in a published article.

Opposition party members demanded that Minister O clarify why the investigation by the military authorities was delayed for more than 1 days and whether there was any cover-up attempt.

They argued that the incident was plotted elaborately by the military beforehand, rebutting the military authorities's contention that the incident was committed accidentally by those soldiers who got angry over O's article criticizing the military culture.

Choe Rejects Assembly's Request for Testimony

Turns Down Panel Member's Visit

SK2608004588 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Former President Choe Kyu-ha yesterday rejected a planned visit by a vice chairman of the parliamentary special panel on the Kwangju incident, who was to ask Choe to testify before the panel.

Choe demanded to know in what capacity and with how much discretionary authority Rep. O Kyong-ui of the panel was to visit his house, according to an aide to Choe.

The chairman and four vice chairmen of the National Assembly ad hoc panel Wednesday decided to send O as their representative to consult with Choe on the timing and method of his testimony.

Rep. O replied over the telephone that the Assembly panel gave him full discretionary power in talks about Choe's testimony.

The special panel resolved early this month to call on Choe to testify on the 1980 Kwangju incident before the panel.

Declines Request To Testify

SK2608110488 Seoul YONHAP in English
1051 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Seoul, Aug 26 (YONHAP)—Former President Choe Kyu-ha Friday virtually rejected a formal request by the National Assembly special committee probing the 1980 Kwangju uprising to testify before the committee to determine the truth behind the incident.

The parliamentary committee recently decided to seek testimony from Choe as a part of its effort to probe into the background of the civil uprising and its bloody suppression. Choe was president when the incident occurred. At least 191 people were killed in the course of the military's suppression of the civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

Choe's remark came during a meeting with an opposition lawmaker, O Kyong-ui, who visited the former president at his home. Choe, however, said he would reveal his position as the then president in a manner and at a time which he feels is proper.

I hope that the committee will come up with good results in the investigation of the Kwangju incident and I intend to positively cooperate in the investigation, he said. However, it will be improper for me to testify before the committee now since the investigative activities by the committee have not yet launched.

The former president also hinted that he would keep silent even if he was compelled to stand before the panel in a forcible way, saying, I think the committee will act wisely in accordance with common sense. He referred to an old Western proverb, saying, you may take a horse to water but you can't make it drink.

The former president said the panel should deal with the matter in a way that would not hurt the national interest including the upcoming Olympics and the South-North parliamentary talks.

Ex-Chon Aide Refuses To Reveal Money Source

SK2608002788 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Two billion won, donated in the name of Chon Tu-hwan to the Ilhae Institute, was delivered by Chang Se-tong, former chief of the Presidential Security Force and later director of the Agency for National Security Planning.

Kim In-pae, Ilhae's secretary general, told members of the Assembly irregularities probing panel that two checks, each valued at one billion won, were deposited at a bank upon being conveyed to Ilhae on Oct. 20 and 22, 1984.

He quoted Chang as saying that the money was given to the former president by a businessman who supported the establishment of the institute and wanted to remain anonymous.

He declined to disclose serial numbers of the checks and the name of the bank though repeatedly urged to do so by the panel members who conducted an on-the-spot inspection overnight until yesterday dawn.

Ilhae sources said that one of the checks, issued by Seoul's Kyonji-dong branch of the Bank of Seoul, had a serial number of D09C401.

The panel concentrated its inspection on who donated huge funds totaling nearly 60 million won and why.

The panel members demanded the release of bankbooks listing Chon's deposits and the name of a person who donated 1.5 billion won anonymously.

Ilhae president Kim Ki-hwan refused to comply with their demand and said that he would not change his position at the "cost of punishment" for his defiance of the examination by lawmakers.

The members further urged Kim to unveil the previous career of Cho Song-hi and his personal relations with Chon. Cho, one the general affairs director, is said to have been in charge of "forceful" fund-raising.

Kim, one-time head of the Korean Development Institute, a state-run think tank, just replied that Cho served as accounting section chief of the Defense Security Command, once led by Chon, when he was a colonel.

Opposition members of the special parliamentary committee located 500-odd pieces of furniture in the basement of a guest house, said to have been built for Chon's private use after retirement.

The furniture bears the presidential emblem of phoenix and roses of Sharon, the national flower.

They maintained that the furniture must have been hidden in the basement in an attempt to escape their scrutiny.

Kim explained that it was removed on April 18 because it has now become useless, but admitted that the guest house was "excessively ornate and not appropriate to accommodate the guests of a research institute."

He reported to the panel that 50 businessmen "donated" a total of 59,850 million won from 1984 through 1987.

They included such big names as Chong Chu-yong of Hyundai group, Yi Kon-hui of Samsung, Ku Cha-kyong of Lucky-Goldstar, Pak Yong-hak of Dainong, Yi Tong-chan of Kolon, Choe Chong-hwan of Samwhan, and Cho Sok-nae of Hyosung.

Of them, 16, who promoted the foundation of the institute, gave 41,150 million won, according to the Ilhae president.

Ilhae, named for Chon's pen name, was recently renamed Sejong after the Choson Kingdom king who devised the Korean alphabet, among other excellent achievements.

No, Kim Yong-sam Talk Postponed to 29 August
SK2608011788 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u will meet Kim Yong-sam, leader of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party, on Monday, instead of today, a presidential spokesman announced yesterday.

The Chongwadae talks have been postponed at Kim's request, the spokesman said.

No is also scheduled to meet Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, Wednesday.

Floor Leaders Near Political Cease-Fire
SK2608001988 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
26 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] The four rival parties are nearing an agreement to issue a formal joint declaration on political cease-fire to ensure trouble-free Olympics.

Floor leaders of the four parties will meet today to discuss the joint declaration, which may become effective next month.

Kim Won-ki, floor leader of the largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, disclosed yesterday that the four party floor leaders met together Wednesday and reached a tentative agreement on political truce during the Olympics.

The verbal agreement will be translated into a formal joint declaration soon when the floor leaders meet again, the PPD floor leader said.

The party whips are expected to reach an agreement on suspending activities of Assembly special committees from the end of this month before issuing a joint declaration to extend supra-partisan support to ensure the successful staging of the Summer Olympiad.

An Assembly special panel investigating the irregularities of the Fifth Republic will temporarily suspend its activities after conducting an on-the-spot inspection of the southern presidential villa, Chongnamdae, on Aug. 29. The Kwangju committee may postpone its full-fledged probe until after the Olympics, only hearing a testimony from Kim Tae-chung scheduled for Aug. 29, party sources said.

In a press conference yesterday, Reunification Democratic Party president Kim Yong-sam reaffirmed that his party will not raise issues that may dampen the festive mood of the Olympics.

The political truce issue will be finalized when President No Tae-u holds separate exclusive talks with Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung on Aug. 29 and 31, respectively.

The ruling party has aired the need to declare a political truce since early this month. But the opposition showed a lukewarm attitude as ruling party chairman Yun Kil-chung and Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap hinted the possibility of revising the Constitution after the Olympics.

NDRP Reportedly Faces Financial Problems
SK2508005588 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
25 Aug 88 p 2

["Press pocket" column: "Financial Difficulty"]

[Text] Kim Chong-pil, president of the opposition New Democratic Republican Party, has complained of the financial difficulties of his party, asking for businessmen's support.

"To manage an opposition party, I face a serious financial problem... So I need your help," he said during a dinner with leaders of the Federation of Korean Industries, including chairman Ku Cha-kyong, Tuesday.

The dinner meeting was arranged at Ku's invitation at a Seoul restaurant.

Kim, who was the No. 2 man in Korea under the leadership of expresident Pak Chong-hui, was once involved in a scandal for misappropriating political funds in the 1960s.

Kim said that the two tasks facing the nation are the realization of national unification and the promotion of social welfare.

He added that "I will check any acts which are aimed at undermining the stability of the nation."

Burma

Reportage on Aung San Suu Kyi's Speech

People Gather at Shwedagon Pagoda

BK2608050688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Text] Rangoon, Aug 26 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of people were massing near the Shwedagon Pagoda here Friday to attend a mass rally for democracy at which the daughter of Burma's founding father was scheduled to speak, witnesses said.

Rally organizers said government establishments, banks and most shops were closed as people converged on the pagoda, Burma's most revered Buddhist shrine.

The main speaker at the rally will be Aung San Suu Kyi, the 43-year-old daughter of Aung San, the architect of Burma's independence from Britain.

People from all walks of life could be seen streaming towards Shwedagon Pagoda from different points of the capital, shouting pro-democracy slogans, eyewitnesses said.

The demonstrators also called for an interim government to replace the administration of the ruling Burma Socialist Program Party, the creation of a student union and the release of those arrested during recent anti-government protests.

Among the crowd gathering near the shrine were government employees dressed in work uniforms, eyewitnesses said.

They said hundreds of people had slept overnight in the shadow of the 2,000-year-old shrine to assure themselves of prime spots for Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi's speech.

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, who is married to an Englishman and has lived most of her life abroad, is to speak near where her father talked during the former British colony's fight for independence, achieved in 1948.

She has not been politically active in the past, but has been described recently by diplomats as the woman capable of becoming "Burma's Corazon Aquino," a reference to the Philippine president who swept to power in peaceful a "people's power" revolution.

Eyewitnesses said the crowd was disciplined and well-behaved.

Rally organizers said foreign diplomats had been invited to attend.

Aung San Suu Kyi Urges Unity

BK2608094488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Aug 26 (AFP)—Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's founding father, made an impassioned plea to a huge crowd here Friday for a transition to democracy without letting the situation degenerate into civil war.

"Democracy can be attained if sought for in a peaceful and unified manner," the dynamic 42-year-old told a cheering crowd of hundreds of thousands at a peaceful rally near the Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma's most sacred shrine.

"My father General Aung San created the Burmese Army under extremely difficult circumstances. So unity must be maintained within the Army," Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi said in the 30-minute speech. [passage omitted]

"The Union of Burma he (Aung San) sought to achieve should not disintegrate," she said, urging "unity between the people and the Army."

There was a bomb scare at the rally but self-formed public security units made up of Buddhist monks and students managed to keep things under control, rally organizers said. Troops were not present at the rally.

"Discipline is essential for the whole nation. No one should resort to violence and bloodshed," she told the crowd massed on grounds west of the golden-spired Shwedagon Pagoda, where her father often addressed crowds.

"There should be no more killings of students, soldiers and people." [passage omitted]

Sources close to Mrs Aung Sang Suu Kyi said she met Thursday with former army chief of staff General Tin Oo, ousted by Gen Ne Win in March 1976.

Gen Tin Oo, mentioned as a possible leader of the growing opposition to the single-party socialist system Gen Ne Win founded after taking power in a 1962 coup, had promised to help keep the army together, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Calls for Interim Government

BK2608123088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Aug 26 (AFP)—Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's founding father, called at a huge rally here Friday for the nation's rulers to resign to make way for an interim government and democracy.

"The people do not believe in the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) any longer, the members should resign and dismantle it," she said of the party of General Ne Win formed 26 years ago after toppling an elected government.

Speaking before a crowd estimated at up to a million by eyewitnesses, the 42-year-old daughter of freedom fighter Aung San said an interim government should be formed "on which the people can place their trust so that general elections can be held as soon as possible."

But she urged forgiveness and understanding in the wake of nationwide demonstrations in which over 1,000 died according to diplomats in a harsh Army crackdown August 8-12 prior to the resignation of strongman Sein Lwin.

"The Union of Burma fought to achieve should not disintegrate," Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi said, asking the public to forgive the military. She also said BSPP members who wanted to keep serving should be able to in a democratic system.

"No one should resort to violence and bloodshed," she said, speaking at the same site near the Shwedagon Pagoda where her father gave important speeches more than 40 years ago. "There should be no more killings of students, soldiers and people." [passage omitted]

Mr Maung Maung's [BSPP Chairman] call this week for a referendum on whether to end single-party rule had come "too late," Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi said in an obvious reference to demonstrations which have grown from student-led marches to a popular movement joining lawyers, monks, and even government workers.

She said the 40-year civil war with ethnic minorities must end. "The Burmans as the majority race must show understanding and consideration towards the ethnic minority races. This is essential for national unity," she said.

Resolutions were adopted at the rally calling for multi-party parliamentary democracy and formation of a caretaker government.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of those killed in the protests.

Troops were not present at the rally, where an award-winning Burmese movie star, Tun Wai, acted as master of ceremonies. [passage omitted]

Seeks Transition to Democracy

BK2608071688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Rangoon, Aug 26 (AFP)—Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's founding father, made an impassioned plea here Friday for a transition to democracy in Burma without allowing the situation to degenerate into civil war.

"Democracy can be attained if sought for in a peaceful and unified manner," the 42-year-old daughter of freedom fighter Aung San told a cheering crowd of hundreds of thousands of people in grounds near Burma's most sacred shrine, the Shwedagon Pagoda, eyewitnesses reported.

There was a bomb scare at the rally, but self-formed public security units made up of monks and students managed to keep things under control, rally organizers said.

Rally organizers earlier said government establishments, banks and most shops were closed as people from all walks of life converged on Shwedagon Pagoda from different points of the capital, shouting pro-democracy slogans. [passage omitted]

Aung Gyi Calls for Maung Maung's Resignation

BK2508161888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Rangoon, Aug 25 (AFP)—Burma's leading dissident, Aung Gyi, told a huge crowd after being released here Thursday that new Burmese leader Maung Maung should resign in favor of an interim government, witnesses said.

He said Mr Maung Maung's proposal Wednesday to hold a referendum on whether or not to maintain single-party rule was not valid at the present time and ended his 15-minute speech by saying: "On with the fight for democracy."

Former Brigadier General Aung Gyi, 70, was released Thursday. He was arrested July 29 after writing several open letters to former strongman General Ne Win criticizing soldiers for firing on student demonstrators in March, in protests which left at least 43 people dead.

Witnesses said he told a crowd estimated at between 100,000 and 300,000 gathered near his home on Prome Road in North Rangoon that people should forgive soldiers for firing at anti-government demonstrators.

They quoted Mr Aung Gyi as saying people should not be antagonistic towards the military and its actions during the recent unrest since it was an integral part of the people and no nation can do without the military.

He asked the people to forgive and forget what had happened at the hands of the military and strive to establish a rapport with the Army.

Mr Aung Gyi added that law and order as well as discipline was needed to achieve democracy.

If people should resort to violent means this would amount to inviting the military back again.

This should be avoided at all costs he said.

BBC Reports on Speech

BK2508144488 London BBC in Burmese to Burma
1410 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Brigadier General Aung Gyi, a leading opponent of the government, in a speech delivered a few minutes ago before a mass rally in Rangoon, has called for the immediate resignation of the new leaders of the present government and the handover of power to a government composed of neutral persons. A dispatch from Christopher Gunness says:

Brig Gen Aung Gyi spoke for 15 minutes at Sanchaung Stadium before 50,000 people in a heavy downpour. Brig Gen Aung Gyi in his speech rejected the plan by party Chairman Dr Maung Maung to call a party congress on 12 September to submit and decide on proposals on democracy. He called on Chairman Maung Maung to resign to make way for an interim government. U Aung Gyi, however, did not mention who should be included in and lead the interim government. He also did not say that he would lead the interim government.

Brig Gen Aung Gyi also called for more cooperation between the people and the armed forces to deal with problems which might have emerged during the period of unrest in recent weeks. Brig Gen Aung Gyi also said the people would have to show more discipline if they want to build democracy in Burma.

Brig Gen Aung Gyi was the sole speaker at the mass rally. Minutes after they had heard the speech at the rally, the people marched into the streets and called for the resignation of the current leadership and the immediate formation of an interim government.

Official Homes Ransacked

BK2508130088 London BBC World Service in English
1200 GMT 25 Aug 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] First to Burma, where the tumultuous events of recent weeks have continued with more unrest in the streets and moves by the government to meet the demands of the many thousands of protesters calling for democracy and an end to single-party rule. Earlier today,

the authorities freed the country's leading dissident, Aung Gyi. He is expected to address a large rally shortly. Christopher Gunness has been following developments:

[Begin recording] The rally is being held at the Sanchaung Stadium in Rangoon after a day in which 100,000 people took to the streets of the capital. Aung Gyi is expected to draw a large crowd. He was released this morning after spending 3 weeks in Insein Prison, 8 miles outside the city center. In recent days, demonstrators have been calling for his release. Although in his seventies, he is widely regarded as a possible leader of opposition forces.

Meanwhile, there are reports that the general strike, now in its fourth day, is finding broad support from the country's workforce. Representatives of the police and Burma's Bureau of Special Intelligence have joined the protests. In addition workers from the government's defense industries and national radio and television have taken to the streets.

In the suburbs of Rangoon there has been widespread looting. In Dala District in the southeast, people are reported to have been killed when crowds stormed and burned down a police station. There have been violent incidents in at least four towns in the southern sector of Burma. In the ports of Moulmein, protestors are said to have broken into the homes of party workers with battering rams, and houses have been looted and destroyed by fire. Senior officials are reported to have taken refuge in coast guard vessels offshore and shots have been fired at demonstrators on the land.

According to observers in Rangoon, Moulmein is one of several towns in the country where the civil administration has completely collapsed. [end recording]

Opposition Wants Provisional Government

OW2608005488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0037 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Text] Rangoon, Aug. 26 KYODO—Informed sources in Rangoon said that Burmese antigovernment groups agreed Thursday to abolish immediately the one-party system and establish a provisional government to carry out general elections in six months time.

The sources said the agreements were reached in their talks held late Thursday night in a bid to seek a unified antigovernment front.

They said the plan to set up a provisional government will be officially proposed at a massive rally to be held on Friday.

Participants at the groups' meeting included lawyers, medical doctors, students and cultural leaders who jointly agreed on the need to replace the current unpopular government which lost its ruling power nationwide, the sources said.

On Wednesday, President Maung Maung proposed a national referendum for a multiparty rule amid demonstrations calling for a halt of the one-party system.

Kachin Rebels Call for Interim Government

*BK2508143888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Aug 25 (AFP)—The main Burmese ethnic rebel group called Thursday for the immediate formation of an interim government in Rangoon saying the ruling Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) was "totally discredited."

"The consensus is unmistakably unanimous: that the one-party BSPP system is totally discredited and must go, and that it must be replaced by a truly democratic multi-party system," Kachin rebel leader Brang Seng said in a statement released here.

Mr Brang Seng, chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) which controls much of northern Burma, said an interim government was needed "to foster reconciliation, to stop the internal war, to bring together all political groups... and to hold general elections expeditiously.

"Nothing short of this will ensure genuine peace, unity and prosperity for Burma," said Mr Brang Seng, a leader of the National Democratic Front, which groups some 10 ethnic groups fighting the central government in Rangoon for autonomy in their regions.

Their campaign began soon after Burma became independent in 1948.

The Kachin leader said a government proposal that a referendum be held on making Burma a multi-party democracy was too late since the matter "has already been decided by all the people including those in armed resistance who have voted with their precious blood on city streets and in the jungles of Burma." [passage omitted]

Violence Reported in Rangoon, Other Townships

*BK2508143888 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 25 Aug 88*

[Text] Mass demonstrations and slogan-chantings continued in many parts of Rangoon city and other townships today, but the demonstrators dispersed peacefully in the evening.

Some violent incidents, looting, and destructive acts have been reported in several townships since martial law was revoked in the Rangoon City Development areas at 1300 yesterday.

At 0200 today, some drunken youths of Aung Mingala ward in Dala Township went marching around (Gi) Ward shouting slogans. On arrival at U Saw's (?fish depot) some youths threw rocks at them, and this resulted in a brawl. When the monks mediated, the fight was stopped temporarily.

At about 0230, about 500 people from (Gi) Ward went to Aung Mingala Ward, destroyed the No 2 Middle School, and set fire to several houses on 1st and 2d streets. The people in the ward had to put the fire out.

Some people in Aung Mingala ward in return set fire to U Saw's (?fish depot), and about 40 houses were burned in the fire. The people in (Gi) Ward then went around spraying fuel oil and setting fire to houses in Aung Mingala and the other wards. This resulted in Aung Mingala Ward losing about 400 houses.

As arson attempts have been made in the other wards also, ward people are undertaking their own security and fire prevention measures, it is learned.

In Setsan Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township, about half an hour after the announcement that martial law had been revoked, and while the Defense Forces personnel were leaving yesterday, some people broke into the rice warehouses in Setsan and stole rice sacks.

Moreover, it is learned that all work has been halted at Rangoon port because there are no workers although foreign ships are in port to discharge their cargo.

Gas Stations Forced To Close

*BK2608071788 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 26 Aug 88*

[Excerpt] Some violent incidents, looting, and destructive acts have been reported in several townships since martial law was revoked in the Rangoon city development areas at 1300 on 24 August. [passage omitted]

In Rangoon yesterday, some demonstrators in cars forcefully got gasoline from filling stations without paying and threatened the station staff to close the station.

Moreover, refinery stations at Mann Thanbayakan and at Syriam had to be closed because the demonstrators demanded the staff and their families to shut the refineries. All work operations are reported to have stopped.

Burma Airways Cancels Flights; Strike Reported

*BK2608081388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT
26 Aug 88*

[Text] Bangkok, Aug 26 (AFP)—Union Burma Airways (UBA) abruptly cancelled its flight from Rangoon to Bangkok Friday, an airline spokeswoman said here.

She said the reason behinds the cancellation was "not known."

A correspondent contacted in Rangoon said airline employees had gone on strike and all external and internal flights had been cancelled.

The spokeswoman here said she was awaiting instructions from her headquarters in Burma on whether flights to Bangkok would be resumed Saturday, she said.

UBA operates a daily flight from Rangoon to Bangkok and returns to the Burmese capital the same day. It uses Fokker-28 aircraft.

Burma has been rocked by widespread anti-government unrest in recent weeks, during which at least 1,000 people have died, according to Rangoon-based diplomats.

Ministry Orders Release of Detainees 25 August
BK2508141288 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In response to the appeal of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to the government to release monks detained as a result of the current disturbances, 27 monks have been released from detention.

The Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs has instructed all police commanders in the states and divisions today—25 August 1988—to release all the people detained in the current disturbances with the exception of those who committed major crimes under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Of the people detained in connection with the disturbances in Rangoon Division since 3 August, all the people, except those who committed major crimes under the Criminal Procedure Code, are being released. Accordingly, 1,683 people—378 male students, 64 female students, 78 male public servants, 1,047 male locals, 89 female locals, 27 monks—were released at 1800 today. More people are being released, it is learned.

2,750 Released to Date
BK2608063588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0430 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Those detained in connection with the current unrest in Rangoon Division, with the exception of the people who committed major crimes under the Criminal Procedure Code, are being released. Last night 158 persons were released. Among those released were 22 male students, 3 female students, 16 male public servants, and 117 civilians.

A total of 2,750 persons detained between 3 and 25 August in connection with the current unrest have all been released. Among them were 27 monks, 597 male students, 147 female students, 1,588 male civilians, 222 female civilians, 165 male public servants, and 4 female servants.

It has been learned that all those detained in connection with the unrest have been released.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir's Candidate Loses By-election
BK2608044788 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0416 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Johor Baharu, Aug 26 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed's fledgling party lost its first electoral test Thursday [25 August] to a former cabinet minister who had refused to join his new United Malay National Organization (UMNO) party.

Shahrir Abdul Samad, 40, contesting as an independent, retained the Johor Baharu parliamentary seat with a 12,613-vote majority over Mas'ud Abdul Rahman, who stood on the ticket of the National Front, the ruling coalition dominated by UMNO.

A third candidate, Abdul Razak Ahmad, acting chairman of the Malaysian People's Socialist Party, lost his [Malaysian dollar] \$5,000 (about U.S \$1,900) deposit for collecting [words indistinct] one-eighth of the votes cast.

Shahrir polled 23,581 votes, Mas'ud 10,968, and Razak 2,260. The results were announced early Friday.

Shahrir, a former welfare services minister, who had held the seat for the past 10 years on the National Front ticket, resigned from the seat July 1 to seek re-election as an independent.

His campaign theme was criticism of Mahathir's leadership style, and [words indistinct] last February because it had unregistered branches.

Shahrir hoped the results would bring about "a realisation and awareness" among the top national leadership (of the government).

Four Internal Security Detainees Released
BK2608054388 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0427 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 26 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Four people including a woman detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for the past 10 months were released Thursday night [25 August]

They are the assistant director of the Roman Catholic National Office of Human Development, Brother Anthony Rogers, dramatist Chow Chee Keong, and university lecturers K.K. Tan and Chee Heng Leng.

M. Ramadah, commandant of the Kamunting detention camp in Taiping about 300 km north of here, announced the release.

They were among more than 108 people, including politicians and social workers detained without trial under the ISA since last October in a government move to stem rising racial tension in the country.

Since then, about 80 have been released.

Commentary Hails Deputy Premier's Visit to Laos
BK2508090988 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Commentary by John Doraisamy]

[Text] The Malaysian deputy prime minister, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba, is at present in the Republic of Laos on a 3-day official visit. This event highlights Malaysia's policy of maintaining good relations with all nations irrespective of their political or economic ideologies.

The Malaysian Government is aware of the economic problems that are confronting Laos, which also suffers from the physical disadvantages of being a land-locked country. Reconstruction of the country has been slow partly because of unsettled conditions in neighboring Kampuchea and the economic stagnation in Vietnam. In this connection, it is probable that Laos will be yet another recipient of Malaysian assistance under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program.

In accordance with normal practice, Malaysia will consider seriously and sympathetically requests for assistance that are perceived as importance by the Laotian Government. Malaysia has no ulterior motives. It is not an expansionist nation nor is it by any stretch of the imagination desirous of obtaining an overseas military base.

Of course, the Malaysian prime minister is zealously promoting South-South solidarity in the interest of all developing nations. A prosperous Laos can play a vital role in the future stability and peace of the entire Indochina region. After the vast losses incurred as the result of the war in the Indochina region, the Laotian people should be assisted and encouraged to devote their energy to economic development. Malaysian assistance could be helpful to Laos, just as it has been helpful to several other nations. The present volume of trade between Malaysia and Laos is very small. Malaysia would like to see a greater volume of goods and services being exchanged by the the two countries. With its rapidly growing output of industrial products, Malaysia is able to supply Laos with most consumer goods. Apart

from trade and commercial links, relations between the two countries can also be strengthened greatly through more cultural contacts and scholarly exchanges. Laos is, from the geo-political point of view, situated in the Southeast Asian region. Because of its unfortunate experience during the Vietnam war years, it has tended to align itself closer to the communist nations, especially for economic consideration. However, in the long term, the destiny of Laos will be linked or intertwined more closely with that of all the ASEAN countries apart from Vietnam and Kampuchea.

The government and the people of Malaysia would like to see Laos reenter the political mainstream of this region. The eventual establishment of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality will also be conducive to greater stability. The Malaysian deputy prime minister's visit to Laos will be the start of a new phase in Malaysian-Laotian relations.

Singapore

AFP Notes Opening of Election Campaign
BK2508094588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 25 Aug 88

[By Michele Cooper]

[Text] Singapore, Aug 25 (AFP)—Government and opposition parties came out fighting Thursday as official campaigning began for Singapore's September 3 general elections.

Leaders of the People's Action Party (PAP), which has dominated political life here for three decades, sounded an alarm after nomination day Wednesday, when seven opposition parties mounted a challenge for 70 seats.

Only 11 of the total 81 seats at stake went unopposed to the PAP, which faces the biggest opposition line-up since 1972.

Prominent government ministers appeared to acknowledge the threat, and they warned of a possible "freak" election result and a PAP defeat if voters assumed they could count on their neighbors to vote for the government party.

The STRAITS TIMES, the leading English-language daily which normally reflects government views, said the possibility of the PAP not being returned as the next government "is not to be ruled out."

While one analyst described this as a "gross exaggeration," many spoke of a close contest ahead for several seats, with the distinct possibility of a half-dozen or more opposition members in the next Parliament.

The PAP won all but two of the then 79 seats in the 1984 election.

First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, briefing local reporters Wednesday, said: "We are not yet the government, and we have to fight to ensure we are returned as government."

Mr Goh, designated successor to veteran Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, heads the PAP strategy committee.

Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the premier's elder son, reminded voters meanwhile that the Constitution provided for up to three non-constituency MP's to represent the opposition but without voting rights.

"There is a vast difference between saying we like to have an opposition and I want an opposition MP in my constituency, looking after my (housing) estate, my town council, and my meet-the-people session," Brigadier General Lee said.

The Workers' Party (WP), which in a 1981 by-election broke the decades-old PAP monopoly in Parliament, meanwhile held the first political rally Thursday.

Eight more rallies for four parties, including the PAP, were planned across Singapore later in the day.

WP leader Benjamin Jeyaretnam, who lost his seat in 1986 on conviction of irregularities in party finances, attacked the government's plans for Singapore's first-ever street dance on Saturday, dubbed "Swing Singapore."

It was an election ploy, he said. "They hope to swing Singaporeans back to the PAP," he said, referring to a 13-point shift away from the government party in the 1984 election.

Mr Jeyaretnam meanwhile urged his lunch-time crowd to pray "that the land may be freed from fear and repression after the election."

Dissident lawyer and WP candidate Francis Seow, who joined Mr Jeyaretnam on the podium, also urged Singaporeans to cast their ballots for the opposition and what he said would be a freer society.

Mr Seow, who spent 72 days in detention earlier this year for alleged collusion with foreigners seeking to influence local politics, said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what it can do to you."

Detention without trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA) as well as a government proposal for an elected president with power over the country's financial reserves and top civil service appointments are expected to be issues in the campaign.

Mr Lee is considered likely to take on the presidency after he steps down from the premiership he has held since 1959.

11 PAP Candidates Unopposed

BK2508132688 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 25 Aug 88 p 1

[By Leslie Fong]

[Excerpts] The People's Action Party [PAP], returned unopposed in only 11 of the 81 seats to be contested in the September 3 general elections when nominations closed yesterday, is facing the biggest opposition line-up in recent memory.

Where 30 of the 79 seats at stake went uncontested to the party in the 1984 general election, it now has to contend with 71 opposition and four independent candidates in the remaining 70 seats. This means that the possibility of the PAP not being returned as the next government is not to be ruled out.

Its assistant secretary-general Mr Goh Chok Tong, was well aware that polling day could bring about the unintended freak result he and his colleagues often spoke about—a PAP government ousted not because the people wanted it so but because each voter thought the next person would vote for the ruling party while he plumbed for the opposition.

He said at a press conference: "We are not yet the government and we have to fight to ensure we are returned as government." [passage omitted]

Of all the opposition parties contesting the September 3 polls, an enlarged Workers' Party, which has absorbed the Barisan Sosialis [Socialist Front] and the United Front, has the largest number of candidates, 32. In the 1984 general election, it fielded 15. Next comes the Singapore Democratic Party, which has 18 candidates contesting, 14 more than in 1984. [passage omitted]

Of the 13 GRCs [Group Representation Constituencies], which are being introduced for the first time this general election, three went to the PAP uncontested by the time nominations closed at noon. [passage omitted]

Two Hong Kong-Based Journalists Turned Away

HK2508093088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Hong Kong, Aug 25 (AFP)—The Singapore Government has turned away two journalists from the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (FEER) and the ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL (AWSJ) who had planned to cover the country's upcoming elections on September 3, the two publications said here Thursday.

FEER's chief correspondent Rodney Tasker was refused entry on Wednesday at Singapore airport after arriving from Bangkok with no reasons given, said FEER editor Philip Bowring.

AWSJ's Southeast Asian correspondent Rocky Pura had entered Singapore on Wednesday from Kuala Lumpur, but was told by Singapore immigration Thursday that he had to leave the country within the day because he lacked a temporary work visa, said AWSJ managing editor Barry Wain.

Both Mr. Bowring and Mr. Wain said they regretted the Singapore Government's action.

Still awaiting official reasons for Mr. Tasker's entry refusal, Mr. Bowring noted that the FEER chief correspondent "has been in Singapore many times in recent years without a work visa and he was there twice only last month."

Mr. Wain described Mr. Pura's case as amounting to "one more blow to press freedom in that country."

"Our reporters have never been required to obtain visas in advance for a short-term reporting visit to Singapore," Mr. Wain said. "The timing of this move inevitably raises the suspicion that the government is seeking to limit foreign press scrutiny of a campaign for the general elections on September 3."

Both the AWSJ and the FEER currently have no Singapore-based correspondents after their last reporters there were refused visa renewals.

The two Hong Kong-based regional publications had their circulations curbed in Singapore after being accused by the government of meddling in domestic politics. The FEER has since January suspended its circulation in the island country altogether.

(In Singapore, there was no immediate government reaction to the incidents. Observers noted that hordes of journalists of all nationalities have entered Singapore in recent years and reported on the country without obtaining what is called a professional visit pass.)

Cambodia

KPNLF's Ieng Calls DK Proposal 'Reasonable'
BK2608035788 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] On 23 August, Ieng Moli, KPNLF representative, told Chinese reporters that the new proposal put forth on 15 August by Khieu Samphan, chairman of the party of the DK, is reasonable and concrete. He also said he thinks that the proposal is a concession to the other Cambodian parties in the discussion to politically and comprehensively resolve the Cambodian problem.

VOK Analyzes Vietnam's Motives for Negotiating
BK2508125088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Aug 88

["Political commentary": "Vietnam's Chance of Ending the War in Cambodia"]

[Text] Changing from one policy to another is normal for a country because each country's policies change from confrontation to reconciliation. Confrontation damages the interests of each party and can be dangerous for each party's country and its people. In the war of confrontation in Cambodia, the Hanoi Vietnamese leaders have started to try to end this war through negotiations with the Cambodian resistance movements following the Vietnamese troops' failure to destroy the Cambodian resistance forces.

It is true that each side will benefit from negotiations and not from blood-letting. This is a universal formula and a way to resolve conflicts among societies and nations to eliminate the danger of both sides being destroyed. Vietnam has stated its position on resolving the Cambodian problem saying it will pull out all its forces from Cambodia at the end of 1990 with or without a political solution. Vietnam's statement is clear evidence that Vietnam has chosen negotiations with the Cambodian resistance forces to end the disaster resulting from the war in Cambodia, of which Vietnam itself is bearing a very heavy burden.

So, let us discuss the major reasons leading the Hanoi Vietnamese to change their policy to negotiations to end the war in Cambodia and view the path Vietnam should take to negotiate an end to this war.

We see that there are two major reasons which have pushed Vietnam into changing its policy toward Cambodia.

The first problem is that Vietnam's economy has suffered because of its warmongering policy in Cambodia and the economic problems have prevented Vietnam from pursuing its war in Cambodia. This is similar to the Cambodian saying: Grow rice with water and fight a war with rice. At present, Vietnam has not enough paddy and rice. Millions of Vietnamese people have been compelled to flee abroad to seek a decent life.

The other major problem is related to Vietnam's real failure to annex Cambodia by strengthening the Heng Samrin regime. Vietnam's attempt has been defeated by all the Cambodian resistance movements, which have received full support from the Cambodian people and the international community which have always opposed Vietnam's sleight of hand. Now Vietnam realizes that it cannot use any pretext, in the eyes of the Cambodian people and the international community, to justify its control over Cambodia and Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. Therefore, apart from the economic reasons, the other major factor which has

pushed Vietnam into negotiating with Cambodian resistance movements is Vietnam's defeat and loss of hope of having Cambodia under Vietnam's colonialist rule.

Lately, we have seen that Vietnam has been striving to end the war in Cambodia through the Heng Samrin regime, its representative in negotiations with the two non-communist fronts.

In the context of these negotiations, we see that Vietnam's goal is to end confrontation with China over the Cambodian issue because China has openly stated its policy of continuing to support all Cambodian resistance forces as long as there is even a single Vietnamese soldier inside Cambodia. If Vietnam persists in occupying Cambodia, it will have to constantly confront China, a superpower. This would be the worse situation for Vietnam to be in. In particular, it would seriously affect Vietnam's current and future economic plans.

Vietnam can negotiate with the two nationalist Cambodian parties on definitively ending the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnamese troops and on measures to prevent the return to power of the Pol Pot group in Cambodia. To do this, Vietnam should agree to pull out all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia under the supervision and control of the International Control Commission and let international peacekeeping forces ensure security in Cambodia. Vietnam should agree to dissolve the PRK regime, which it has put up, to set up a provisional government which has the task of organizing general elections in Cambodia and of rebuilding an independent and neutral Cambodia with full sovereignty and which is not a client of Vietnam, China, or any other superpowers.

This is the only way acceptable to Vietnam, China, and the international community, and in particular, to the Cambodian people. Allowing Cambodia to be independent and neutral is the only way to reconcile Vietnam and China and Vietnam and Cambodian resistance movements which are fighting for Cambodia's genuine independence and sovereignty. Vietnam should follow this path if it wants to definitively end all confrontation on the Cambodian issue now and in the future.

Briefs

Deputy Defense Minister Visit

Comrade Nhim Vanda, deputy defense minister, recently visited and distributed gifts to cadres, combatants, and state authorities in Kompong Chhnang Province. On the occasion, he praised and highly valued the achievements and developments won by the province during the past nearly 10 years, particularly the effective security and safety provided to the local people. [Summary] [BK2608030288 *Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian* 0430 GMT 25 August 88]

7 Returnees to Baribo

During the first 15 days of August, 7 persons from opposing factions presented themselves to the revolutionary authorities in Baribo District, Kompong Chhnang Province, located 90 km northwest of Phnom Penh. Since the beginning of this year, the province has received 50 returnees, including 49 Pol Potists and 1 Sereika, as well as 22 firearms. [Excerpt] [BK2608025888 *Phnom Penh SPK in French* 1125 GMT 25 August 88]

New Volunteers to Army

On the morning of 22 August, a ceremony was organized at the Olympic complex stadium by the party, state, and mass organization's committees in Phnom Penh city, to send off the 1988 second contingent of young volunteers to the Army training school. Those youngsters have been recruited from local wards and districts, as well as from departments, offices, factories, and enterprises around Phnom Penh city. On the occasion, Comrade Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh Provisional Party Committee, underlined that during the past more than 9 years, under the correct leadership of the KPRP, our people had won all-around great successes in the building of the Armed Forces with the capability of defending the motherland and the revolutionary gains. He also stressed that, in this new current stage where the Cambodian forces are moving toward assuming the revolutionary tasks, all youths should increase and sharpen their will in order to carry out these supreme duties with patriotic spirit and with love for their people. [Excerpt] [BK2408035888 *Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian* 1300 GMT 23 August 88]

Philippines

Manglapus Says No 'Special Treatment' From U.S.
HK2608015188 *Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English* 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] There is no such thing as special treatment being given by the United States to the Philippines. This was Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus' perception as he spoke yesterday [25 August] during the House question hour. According to Manglapus, the United States always insists on the Philippine-American special relationship; yet when asked for special treatment, they reject it because giving such treatment would antagonize other countries. Manglapus said that while the Philippines maintains strong relations with the U.S., it has stronger relations with member countries of the Association of Southeast Nations. He also defended President Aquino's decision to exercise her options after the present review of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. Manglapus added that with the conclusion of the present talks, the Philippines can point to documents as the basis upon which the president could exercise her options.

Manglapus, Shultz To Meet on Bases in September
HK2508063788 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 25 Aug 88 pp 1, 3

[By staff member Tress Reyes]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will meet Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus in New York on Sept. 30 in what may be a last-ditch effort to break the deadlock in the bases negotiations.

Diplomatic sources said there is "a rising level of irritation" in Washington over the bases issue that could have prompted Shultz to invite Manglapus, chief Philippine negotiator, to a meeting.

The talks had been suspended twice because both the Philippine and American panels refused to budge from their positions on such key issues as compensation, the anti-nuclear question and the unhampered American military operations in the bases here.

In a telex to the foreign office, Shultz requested for a 45-minute meeting on Sept. 30 with his Philippine counterpart at the United Nations Plaza Hotel beginning 10 a.m. informed sources said.

Manglapus who is scheduled to be in the United States to attend the annual opening of the United Nations General Assembly, consented to see the American official, the sources added.

While in the U.S. Manglapus also intends to meet "key Congressmen" to give the Philippine panel's side of "how things are developing and to balance what they know" about the bases review, a source disclosed.

The source said Manglapus would try to see Sens. Alan Cranston (Republican) and Richard Lugar (Republican) and Rep. Stephen Solarz (Democrat, New York), all described as personal friends of the foreign secretary and "sympathetic" to the Philippines.

Manglapus will be accompanied on his US trip by three members of the Philippine panel: Ernesto Leong, foreign affairs undersecretary for finance; Edgardo Kalaw, foreign affairs assistant secretary for economic relations; and Ambassador Leonides Caday, director general of the American affairs division.

The source said Philippine panel members intend to persuade the American lawmakers not to link the bases issue with the proposed \$10 billion Philippine Aid Plan, also known as the "mini-Marshall Plan."

U.S. Navy Bomb Allegedly Dropped in Zambales
HK2508063388 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 25 Aug 88 p 8

[By correspondent Vic Vizcocho]

[Text] Masinloc, Zambales—A powerful bomb allegedly dropped by a U.S. Navy jetfighter landed near a 500,000-gallon gas depot of the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) here last Aug. 17, but the bomb did not explode, local officials said yesterday.

U.S. Navy authorities at Subic Naval Base, however, denied the projectile was dropped by one of their planes and said it could have fallen from a passing Philippine Air Force jet.

Two female villagers—Socorro Gayunda, 55, and Luzviminda Villamor, 15—were injured by rock splinters sent flying by the bomb's impact, Mayor Jesus Edora said.

Had the bomb exploded, it could have wiped out the entire population of Sitio Matalbis in Barangay Inhobol, this town, authorities said. Some 600 families are living in Matalbis, a fishing village some 120 km from Olongapo City.

Villagers said they got the scare of their lives when on the night of Aug. 17, they heard a "whizzing" sound and realized that a bomb was falling out of the sky. They said this occurred while two jet planes were flying noisily overhead.

The bomb landed in the middle of a residential area, missing a house by some two meters and gouging a hole two meters deep in the ground.

Lt. Col. Lucas Cauton Jr., Zambales PC-INP commander said the area was secured while bomb experts from the PC bomb disposal team in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, were being awaited.

"The bomb may still explode anytime," Edora told newsmen as he explained that the residents' problem was not yet over.

James O'Leary, assistant public affairs officer of the U.S. Navy base at Subic Bay, said in a telephone interview with THE CHRONICLE that there was no U.S. military operation on the night of the incident.

O'Leary, however, admitted that a U.S. military exercise codenamed "Exercise Cope Thunder" was in progress "but not on the night of Aug. 17."

He added that a Philippine Air Force plane may have dropped the bomb accidentally "just like the Hacienda Luisita incident."

Elena Gayunda, daughter of one of the injured, said that the planes were "all American."

"Alangan namang Russian o sa Philippine Air Force dahil madalas and lipad ng US plane dito a [It could not possibly be Russian or Philippine Air Force planes because it is usually U.S. planes that fly here]" she said.

Malaysia Beefing Up Presence in Spratlys

HK2608052188 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Department has disclosed that Malaysia is strengthening its forces in the Spratly Islands. Such a move by Malaysia has apparently been made to protect its claim to the islands. Tony Valencia has more details:

[Begin recording] The disclosure was made during a meeting by officials of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Departments to draw up a policy decision on the Spratlys problem. Latest reports indicate that this aggressive action by Malaysia is bound to have international implications, since the Spratlys are also being claimed by four other nations besides the Philippines and Malaysia. The Foreign Affairs Department added that this action by Malaysia will upset the status quo around the Spratly area. Recently the diplomatic equilibrium between both countries was disrupted when 49 Filipino fishermen were arrested last April 7 by Malaysian authorities who charged them with violating their exclusive economic zone. Reports also say that Malaysia is setting up additional naval stations near Sandakan, northwest Borneo, to supplement their four installations in the Spratlys. The Philippines and Malaysia are due to hold high-level talks to resolve their border problems. [end recording]

Official Says Saudis Controlling Worker Inflow

HK2508093188 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Philippine Overseas Employment Administrator Tomas Achacoso has explained that Saudi Arabia has no intention of banning Filipinos from working in the country. In his testimony before the House Special Task Force headed by Congressman (Metino Chavez), Achacoso said that Saudi Arabia was only balancing the in-flow of contract workers.

Meanwhile, Achacoso denied that Labor Secretary Franklin Drilon will go to Saudi Arabia to settle the ban controversy. [passage indistinct]

Honasan Letter Criticizes Aquino Government

HK2508114188 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] An open letter allegedly written by rebel Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan reportedly is in circulation. Reporters at the Senate reportedly received copies of the letter, which was issued on the occasion of the forthcoming anniversary of the failed coup d'etat launched by Honasan.

The letter states that the coup was staged by professional soldiers loyal to the country and its people. It also criticizes the Aquino government, saying that there is greater suffering in the country now and that the administration has no direction. The letter adds that good speeches will not do the country and its people any good. It claims that what the nation needs is a responsible government.

Military Replies to Letter

HK2608094388 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Bing Formento from Mobile 11 reports on the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] reply to Gregorio Honasan's letter:

[Begin recording] Colonel Gregorio Honasan is still being hunted by the AFP after escaping from the prison ship off Roxas Boulevard at the Philippine Navy Headquarters. The letter he has circulated says that the 28 August incident would have been avoided if the reforms his followers have been demanding were granted. According to the letter, the government cannot overlook these accusations, because daily they are being published in the newspapers and heard on the radios. The irregularities we read and hear about the Presidential Commission on Good Government could have been prevented if President Aquino had from the beginning managed her government well.

The AFP's Public Information Office, under Colonel Oscar Florendo, has issued a statement in reply to Honasan's letter. His assistant, Lieutenant Senior Grade Anselmo Cabingan, made the announcement.

[Begin recording in English] Once again, Mr Honasan is attempting to establish himself as the spokesman of the Filipino people. It has been a year since the unsuccessful violent coup attempt he led, yet Gringo still cannot face the fact that he has lost his credibility. Now, he is trying to convince the Filipino people that what happened last August 28, 1987 was not a coup attempt. Today, he calls it a demonstration of the people's will. Certainly, not one citizen was consulted. Surely, it was not the people's will. Who was responsible that 53 people be killed on that day?

Who was responsible that 27 families and Gringo's fellow soldiers would suffer the loss of a loved one? Who was responsible that 358 militant people be disfigured and scarred for life? Who would want hundreds of people to suffer the agony of trial and detention? Certainly not the Filipino people. We cannot allow Mr Honasan to bring about the same agony. The people's will now is to bring justice. The Filipinos would rather build than destroy. Let us all bring Honasan, the greatest opportunist of them all, to face the course of law. [end recording]

This was the AFP's official statement read by Lieutenant Senior Grade Anselmo Cabingan regarding the letter circulated by Lieutenant Colonel Gringo Honasan's

group, which claims that we are in for a surprise from Honasan, the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] boys, and their followers and supporters this coming 28 August, the first anniversary of their (?struggle) against the Aquino government.

A RAM member has said the public should not be scared because no untoward incident will happen on the anniversary. The papers have reported that whatever happens will be nonconfrontational, and this will include mass celebrations in several churches in Metro Manila for the safety of Honasan and his companions. [end recording]

More on Reply

BK2608093188 Manila PNA in English 0809 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug. 26 (OANA/PNA)—The military has dismissed the possibility of another coup by ex-Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the Aug. 28, 1987 fifth and bloodiest coup attempt against President Corazon C. Aquino.

Armed Forces Spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo made the statement Thursday [25 August] in reaction to Honasan's renewed call for the overthrow of the Aquino government, the same government he helped install during the February 1986 civilian-backed military revolt.

Honasan was a key figure in that revolt that ended the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

In a statement distributed to reporters Thursday, the renegade officer urged a generation of new leaders to oust the Aquino government which he accused of failing to deliver genuine reforms in the country.

His statement, addressed to "our beloved countrymen," came three days before the first anniversary of the failed Aug. 28 coup which he led. At least 53 people died and 300 others, including Aquino's only son, were wounded.

Honasan was captured in December 1987 just before the Manila summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) but escaped from his prison ship anchored off Manila Bay in April this year together with his navy guards.

Except for a statement following his escape, virtually nothing has been heard of Honasan until Thursday.

"After 30 months of pointing an accusing finger at the past regime, we find ourselves more fragmented, more impoverished, and more adrift than before," Honasan's statement said.

"The vacuum created by the lack of vision of the past regime and the lack of direction and competence of the incumbent must now be filled up by a generation of new and dynamic leaders unfettered by the ways of traditional politicians," it said.

The statement added: "We must be prepared to pray, petition, cajole, toil, and if necessary, fight and die for it."

Florendo, reacting sharply to Honasan's statement, pointed out that the bloody coup attempt Honasan led last year cost the country some 10 billion U.S. dollars in investment losses, aside from economic and political disasters resulting from it.

"Who would will that 53 people be killed on that day? [sentence as received] Who desired that 358 innocent people be disfigured and scarred for life? Who would want hundreds of people to suffer agony of trial and detention? Certainly, not the Filipino people," Florendo said.

He stressed that the Armed Forces cannot allow Honasan to commit the same mistake and bring about the same agonies.

"The people's will is now to bring justice. Honasan would have to face the consequences of his deeds," Florendo said.

He dismissed the possibility that Honasan is capable of launching another coup, but just the same, the Armed Forces is "taking the necessary precautions."

Troops Deployed to Provinces

HK2508114588 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The military has deployed more troops to provinces neighboring Metro Manila to prevent any plan to destabilize the government. The additional soldiers have been sent to Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, and the 1st district of Laguna.

Last week, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said that the military has been monitoring the movements of renegade military groups. He said threats from right-wing and left-wing forces remain.

Controversy on Possible Marcos Return Continues

Editorial Urges 'Consensus'

HK2508072188 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 25 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Consensus Needed on Marcos' Return"; words underlined as published]

[Text] Many people have found it disconcerting, to say the least to suddenly hear President Aquino remarking mater-of-factly that if the courts say so, then Ferdinand

Marcos may come flying home. What happened between her last vehement objection to his return and her latest statement that the dictator who had fled to the safety and comfort of America may now come home?

This is one case when Malacanang may find it useful to listen to what the people have to say. It is better to have a national consensus guide the hand of the president.

But if the people are to participate more intelligently in evolving a consensus on whether or not Marcos should be allowed to return home at this point President Aquino has to share enough information with them to serve as factual basis for forming an opinion. Not enough data have been allowed to filter to the people, not even to their representatives in Congress and the media. The dearth of data marks the public mind fertile ground for speculation but a barren field for an intelligent discussion.

Until Malacanang levels with the people, speculation will continue that the impending return of Marcos is the result either of a negotiated accommodation or pressures from the Reagan Administration, or both.

The "if the courts say so" statement of the President appears to take off from the controversial Sandiganbayan [Anti-Graft Court] resolution of Aug. 18 granting a petition of the government to perpetuate the testimony of former Public Works Secretary Baltazar Aquino on alleged kickbacks during the Marcos regime. But, as the Solicitor General himself has said, Marcos' physical presence is not essential to perpetuating the testimony of a witness. It should also be noted that at this point no criminal charges have been filed against Marcos.

This seems to indicate that if President Aquino does not want Marcos back at this point, she can always frustrate his return regardless of the Sandiganbayan resolution. This is the reason why there is a widespread impression that President Aquino has actually agreed to Marcos' return, with the Sandiganbayan resolution being a mere convenient excuse for her new position.

A more substantial and credible statement from the President should be forthcoming.

Grant of Travel Documents Possible

HK2608085788 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has announced that the petition for travel documents by former President Marcos could be approved. He warned, however, that the travel documents, which would be approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs, could also be canceled at any time in the event legal questions arose.

Manglapus said that neither former President Marcos nor any member of his family has filed a passport application.

Marcos Signature Challenged

HK2508080388 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Slantlines denote passages in English]

[Text] Solicitor General Frank Chavez disclosed the possibility that the signature in the petition for former President Marcos' travel documents, which have been submitted to the Sandiganbayan [Anti-Graft Court] by Mrs Fortuna Marcos Barba could be fake. It will be recalled that Mrs Barba claimed that Mr Marcos authorized her to process his travel documents, which will allow him to return to Manila. As far as Solicitor General Chavez remembers the former president does not sign his full name, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos, on documents. He would normally use the initial of his middle name. Chavez also heard reports that Mr Marcos is in serious condition, making it impossible for him to sign any document.

Earlier, Mrs Fortuna Marcos Barba expressed the hope that the Sandiganbayan would grant her brother the travel documents to enable him to return to the country and bury their mother, Dona Josefa Edralin Marcos, and face the charges filed against him.

[Begin Mrs Barba recording in English in progress]
...immediate implementation of the Sandiganbayan resolution of August 18, 1988, which categorically recognized his right to avail himself of his constitutional and statutory rights to return to his country, not only to be present during the perpetuation proceedings but also to represent himself as an expected [word indistinct] party.
[end recording]

Meanwhile, Congressman Luis Chavit Singson does not believe that the return of former President Marcos would cause disturbances in the country. He said that the reason for the latter's return is to retire from politics.

[Begin Singson recording] They are waiting for him in the north because Dona Josefa has not yet been buried. I think that when he returns there will not be any trouble at all. He will come back to retire. [end recording]

Senator Joey Lina favors the return of Mr Marcos. In an interview with RV [Radio Veritas] News, he said that the final decision has to come from the executive branch. He is very confident that the Philippine Government is already stable and that the former president is no longer a big threat to its security.

[Begin Lina recording] I have already mentioned in an interview that I favor Mr Marcos' return to our country, but the real decision should come from the executive department. /My view is my own personal view. The executive branch has access to more reliable and substantial information/ that they could use as a basis for their decision. I think that our government and society are already stable, and even if there are threats against

the present administration coming from forces loyal to the former president, I still believe that our government has enough strength to counter them. If the executive branch thinks that the danger is much greater than what I see, then I will respect the decision. [end recording]

Criminal Charges Could Be Filed

OW2508131088 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug. 25 KYODO—Deposed President Ferdinand Marcos' hopes for an early return to the Philippines were dashed Thursday by a top government lawyer who said criminal charges had to be filed against the former ruler before he can return and defend himself.

"There is no criminal case against him yet and there is no trial to speak of," Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said.

"At this point in time, and I would like to emphasize that, he cannot invoke any constitutional right," Chavez added.

Chavez was reacting to a petition submitted to a special antigraft court Wednesday by Marcos, who is living in exile in Hawaii, asking that he be given a passport so he can return to Manila to cross-examine one of his former cabinet ministers who said he allegedly received payoffs from Japanese firms.

The Sandiganbayan court has set a deposition hearing on November 7 for former Public Works Secretary Baltazar Aquino, who is not related to President Corazon Aquino. The court earlier ruled that Marcos can choose to be present during the hearing.

In his petition, Marcos, himself a lawyer, said that the cases against him should be dismissed unless he is allowed to cross-examine Aquino.

Chavez said the government is still gathering evidence for a criminal prosecution against Marcos for allegedly illegally enriching himself during his 20 years as president. Civil suits, however, had earlier been filed against Marcos and his close associates.

Under Philippine law a person criminally charged should be personally present at his arraignment.

Also on Thursday, President Aquino reiterated she will stand by her "commitment respecting the decision of our courts."

"At the same time," she said, "I am also committed to work for the national interest." She did not elaborate.

Marcos fled to Hawaii after he was toppled in a civilian-backed military revolt in February 1986.

Aquino, who took power after the revolt, has refused to allow Marcos to return saying he is behind moves to oust her. But she later relented, saying she will abide by whatever the courts decide.

Manila newspapers reported that share prices at the stock market continued to decline for the fourth straight day on Wednesday due to fears of possible political instability arising from Marcos' return.

Trading was also dampened by the open break with the Aquino administration announced by Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Invalidation of Marcos' Request Filed

HK2608110188 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The government will submit a petition to invalidate former President Marcos' petition to return to the country as soon as possible. The petition will be submitted by Solicitor General Frank Chavez. He also said that the Sandiganbayan [Anti-Graft Court] has no authority to decide on Marcos' request. Sel Baisa has the full details:

[Begin recording] In his urgent motion to the Sandiganbayan to return to the country, Marcos requested that this court mediate for him as well as ask permission from the United States for his return. In a news conference, Chavez said that the Sandiganbayan has no authority to intercede or to directly make such a request of the U.S. Government. He added that he will file the case with the Supreme Court if the Sandiganbayan responds negatively to the request. Chavez stressed that Marcos does not have the right to command and issue a deadline for his return to the country as relayed in his letter to the Sandiganbayan. [end recording]

Aquino Moves To Bar Return

BK2608112888 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1000 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] President Aquino today moved to ban the return here of deposed President Marcos in the national interest. The president took the move after meeting this afternoon with advisers and leaders of Congress, the judiciary, justice, prosecution, NBI [National Bureau of Investigation], and other officials. The meeting at Malacanang [Palace] discussed all implications and aspects of the rumored return of Marcos, as well as the status of cases filed against Marcos and cronies or ill-gotten wealth and cases which are still pending.

The president ordered Solicitor General Frank Chavez to file a motion to strike out the alleged petition of Marcos asking that he be furnished with documents by the government for his return.

Fears of Stock Market Collapse If Marcos Returns
*HK2508091588 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Aug 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has given assurances on the country's security in the event former President Marcos returns. She issued this statement because of fears among businessmen. Mrs Aquino reiterated her previous commitment to respect the court's decision. She said she has a commitment to the country's interest. Businessmen are afraid that even the stock market may collapse the moment the former president sets foot in the country.

Meanwhile, according to a survey conducted by the ARO [Asian Research Organization], President Aquino's approval rating has dipped.

Aquino Allays Fears of Market Crash
*HK2608020988 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino allayed businessmen's fears that the stock market might collapse with the return of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos. Art Pabellon has more:

[Begin recording] Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, at a press briefing yesterday [25 August] quoted the president:

[Benigno] I stand by my commitment accepting the decision of our courts. At the same time, I am also committed to work for the national interest. The solicitor general will [words indistinct] that he believes necessary to promote the national interest.

[Pabellon] In another development, Secretary Benigno also revealed that President Aquino's popularity has dropped to 69 percent from a high of 74 percent last month. A survey conducted by the Asian Research Organization noted that the reasons for the drop in President Aquino's acceptance rating was the escape of Gringo Honasan, the second assassination attempt on PUP [Polytechnic University of the Philippines] President Nemesio Prudente, the infighting in the PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government], and charges of human rights violations. [end recording]

Market Rebounds as Return Delayed
*HK2608095188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT
26 Aug 88*

[Text] Manila, Aug 26 (AFP)—The Philippine stock market recovered strongly Friday from a four-day slump caused by fears that deposed President Ferdinand Marcos may be allowed to return home from exile in Hawaii.

The bourses surged as Manila newspapers reported that President Corazon Aquino, who had promised to abide by any court order allowing Mr. Marcos to come home, vowed to take steps to block his return.

Sectoral averages were up in the Manila Stock Exchange and the suburban Makati Stock Exchange. The composite price index in Manila jumped 19.85 points to hit 761.66 while the Makati index gained 17.76 points to settle at 752.11.

Solicitor-General Francisco Chavez said after a meeting with Mrs. Aquino and other senior officials Friday that he would shortly file a motion to dismiss Mr. Marcos's petition to attend a court hearing graft charges against him.

He said Mr. Marcos may be allowed to come home within four to six months after formal criminal charges are filed before the anti-graft court.

Mr. Marcos is now facing civil suits filed by the government, but Philippine law requires the defendant's presence only in a criminal trial.

"The Philippines has decided to file a motion to strike out this particular petition" for Mr. Marcos's immediate return, Mr. Chavez said.

"We believe that it is not even worthy of an actual or formal opposition on the part of the Philippine Government," he added.

Mr. Chavez added that he would "elevate the matter to the Supreme Court" if the Anti-Graft Court fails to act on his motion.

Mr. Marcos in a statement Wednesday asked an Anti-Graft Court hearing charges that he stole billions of dollars during his 20-year rule to immediately issue an order allowing him to return home and defend himself.

Composite indices this week fell to their lowest levels this year following reports that Mr. Marcos would be allowed to return to face criminal charges filed against him by the Aquino government.

"A lot of investors who panicked yesterday came to their senses that it's not really that easy for Mr. Marcos to come back to the Philippines," a bourse official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He also said that a rise in overseas copper prices and news of a promising offshore oil drilling southwest of here had contributed to the recovery.

Mr. Marcos has been confined to the island of Oahu since he was linked to an aborted coup plot last year.

He fled to Hawaii in February 1986 after a popular revolt installed Mrs. Aquino as president after she ran against him in a disputed election.

Mr. Marcos's petition was based on the planned testimony of his former highways minister Baltazar Aquino—not related to the president—who has signed a statement accusing Mr. Marcos of receiving five million dollars in kickbacks from Japanese road contractors in the 1970's.

The Aquino government accuses Mr. Marcos of amassing up to 10 billion dollars in "ill-gotten wealth" in Swiss bank accounts, U.S. real estate and shell companies in tax havens across the world.

Manila has filed lawsuits seeking title to the assets, but the Swiss Government has insisted that Mr. Marcos be criminally charged before any of his deposits are turned over to the Philippines.

The Austrian Embassy here and the Philippine Foreign Office Friday also dismissed press reports saying that Mr. Marcos might seek asylum in Austria, where he would buy a castle and acquire the title of count.

"We have not received any word from head office yet regarding any request," Austrian Embassy spokesman Gerhard Erderly said, laughing off the reports.

Villamor Cardema, spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Department, dismissed the reports as coffee-shop talk and said "there's nothing to it."

IMF Review Team Begins Financial Talks
HK2308084988 Hong Kong AFP in English
0831 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug 22 (AFP)—An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has arrived here to monitor the Philippines' compliance with fiscal targets set as a condition for further credit, officials said Tuesday.

Central Bank officials said talks between the IMF mission and Philippine monetary officials began Monday, but they gave no details.

Business newspapers here said Tuesday that the IMF, which acts as a monitor for the Philippines' foreign creditors, would look in particular at Manila's gross international reserves, budget deficit and money supply levels.

The mission's seal of approval is needed before Manila can draw about 49.5 million dollars remaining in a current IMF credit program totalling 505 million dollars and seek a fresh facility to bridge a financing gap, the reports said.

IMF approval is also likely to influence foreign creditors in deciding whether to extend new credit to the country or not.

The Philippines has a 28.6 billion-dollar foreign debt, of which about half has been rescheduled. It uses IMF credit facilities to prop up its reserves.

Gross international reserves have reached a two-year low, standing at 1.62 billion dollars in July. Manila has projected a 22 billion-peso (1.04 billion dollar) deficit in 1988 out of a 190 billion-peso (nine billion-dollar) budget.

President Corazon Aquino is seeking fresh debt relief to allow the economy to continue growing, saying harsh repayment terms could prevent the country from fulfilling its debt obligations in the long term.

The Philippines' gross national product grew by 5.7 per cent in 1987 and is forecast to grow by more than six percent this year.

Immigration Commissioner To Continue Policies
OW2508101988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug. 25 KYODO—Philippine Immigration Commissioner Miriam Defensor Santiago said Thursday she has received death threats but is not afraid to die while removing from her department grafters cooperating with large criminal syndicates.

Santiago has been responsible for the arrest and deportation of members of Japanese "Yakuza" criminal groups, Taiwanese "Bamboo" gangs, the Chinese triad and other gangsters in her seven months in office.

She said the only management style that will succeed in the graft-ridden Immigration Commission is what she called "silent head-bashing."

Santiago, 43, was appointed by President Corazon Aquino last January to the sensitive post. Immediately, she launched a campaign to wipe out corruption in the commission to boost the morale of her employees.

Her crusade against graft and corruption has won her the 1988 Ramon Magsaysay award for government service.

"I am not afraid of death threats. I cannot afford to in my present position because it is part of the psychological warfare that is being waged against a commissioner who wishes to change the present system," she told a forum in Manila's financial district of Makati.

She recently visited Japan to discuss activities of the Yakuza and the Japanese Red Army terrorist group in Manila.

NPA Attacks Reported; Children Taken Hostage
BK2608080288 Manila PNA in English 0740 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug. 26 (OANA/PNA)—Some 200 communist guerrillas attacked a municipality in the northern Philippines Mountain Province and held hostage an undetermined number of school children after they occupied a public elementary school Wednesday.

Another group of rebels blasted a power substation in the Bicol region, triggering a blackout in at least six towns in Albay Province, 360 kms southeast of Manila.

Military reports reaching the suburban Armed Forces Headquarters in Quezon City on Thursday [25 August] said responding troops killed three of the attackers in air strikes in the Mountain Province incident.

A Philippine Constabulary (PC) report said the rebels descended from their mountain hideouts and simultaneously attacked the town hall, police station, and a PC detachment in Sadanga Municipality, 290 kms north of Manila.

It was the second attack by the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels on Sadanga town since Aug. 8 when a dissident band engaged members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), a former rebel group now supporting the government, in firefights that saw two CPLA [members] wounded and four NPA rebels killed.

Heli-borne troops are continuing combat operations against the communist rebels who, as of Thursday evening, were reported still holding the school children hostages and using the young victims as shields against pursuing government troopers.

In Albay Province in the Bicol region, an undetermined number of NPA rebels severely damaged the power substation of the Albay Electric Cooperative, triggering a massive blackout over six municipalities.

Lt. Col. Reinero Albano, the PC provincial commander, said the rebels used armalite rifles and grenade launchers in blasting several transformers of the power station.

The attack prompted Southern Luzon Military Commander Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido to deploy more guards to all electric power installations in the Bicol region.

He said the guerrilla attack last Tuesday [23 August] on the Albay power station was part of a NPA plot to sabotage major government facilities in the region. Similar NPA attacks in the region last year resulted in the blasting of major bridges and rail tracks.

Military Nabs Six Suspected NPA Hit Men
BK2608094388 Manila PNA in English 0827 GMT
26 Aug 88

[Text] Manila, Aug. 26 (OANA/PNA)—Military operatives nabbed six more suspected members of an urban terrorist group in a continuing government crackdown against communist infiltrators in Metro-Manila, a senior military official said Thursday [25 August].

Col. Guillermo Ruiz of the National Capital Defense Command said two of the suspects were female. All six, he said, were believed members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) whose chief, Romulo Kintanar, is under military custody.

Kintanar, said to be the founder of a communist killer squad known as the "Sparrow" guerrillas whose main mission is to carry out the communist armed struggle in key Philippine cities, was among key communist leaders arrested in the metropolis last April.

Hundreds of suspected "Sparrow" members entered Metro-Manila early this year and began a wave of terror strikes mostly against uniformed policemen and soldiers in cities in the national capital region.

The military responded with major operations that led to the arrest of several suspects in raids on known NPA lairs across the metropolis.

Also arrested at the start of the anti-terrorist campaign last April was Rafael Baylosis, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) secretary general.

The latest arrest of the six suspects brought to 22 those arrested in the past two weeks. Last Aug. 15, the military rounded up 16 suspected NPA members, including five members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), in a raid at the outskirts of the city. In the continuing crackdown, the military raided a guerrilla safehouse in suburban Taguig where the six were nabbed, according to Col. Ruiz, the deputy commander of the National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC).

He said troops stormed the place after being tipped off that it was used as a resting area for NPA sparrow hitmen. Rounded up were Jerico Petronio, Robin Repolles, Cesar Nicol, and Enrique Cid and two females identified as Delia Repolles and Rose Tatag.

Soldiers also seized one 38-caliber revolver, four knives, and subversive documents. The suspects remained in military custody at the suburban Armed Forces headquarters in Quezon City.

Column Sees Hopeful Signs of NPA Breakdown
HK2608063788 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 26 Aug 88 p 4

["On the Other Hand" column by Antonio C. Abaya: "Is the NPA's Back Broken?"]

[Text] Is 1988 the year that the back of the insurgency will be broken, as predicted by President Aquino?

It is too early to tell. But there are hopeful signs that point in this direction, the most impressive being the capture by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] of many top- and middle-level national and regional leaders of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NDF/NPA.

While it is true that captured leaders, especially of an organization as widely and deeply rooted as the CPP/NDF/NPA, can be replaced from a formidable pool of cadres, it is equally true that the continuous decimation of the leadership has an inevitable qualitative effect on the rank and file, leading to the neutralization of the organization.

This has probably been the unpublicized strategy of the DND-AFP under Sec. Fidel Ramos and AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Renato de Villa. The outstanding success of Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano and his group of headhunters in tracking down the brains of the insurgency cannot be just a happy coincidence.

With its leaders decimated by arrests, its ranks demoralized by rivalries and dissension, its Robin Hood image badly eroded by abuses, the NPA may have to abandon the armed struggle. If the AFP maintains the pressure on the Radical Left's hierarchy, Joma Sison's prediction of a stalemate by 1992 will recede farther and farther.

It is just as well. Armed struggle, wars and revolutions, as a means of settling disputes or of effecting transformation of society, are becoming unfashionable these days. All over the world, more and more people are making peace, not war. For the first time in recent memory, the underlying theme of the year is peace, not war.

For this historical milestone, much credit goes to Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It does not matter that his motivation is to rebuild the Soviet economy and is therefore self-serving. The fact is his initiatives towards peace are bearing tangible results.

Under his leadership, the Soviet Union has signed a treaty with the U.S. for the mutual reduction of intermediate range nuclear missiles. Similar treaties for reduction of strategic nuclear missiles and of conventional weapons are in preparation. The proposed treaty on conventional weapons is indicative of the apparent sincerity of the Soviets: In Europe, the Soviets seem to be

prepared to unilaterally reduce their established superiority in conventional weapons (tanks, artillery, aircraft) to parity with NATO, after which—and only after which—mutual scaling down begins.

Georgi Arbatov, director of the Kremlin's think tank on North America, puts the new Soviet strategy succinctly: "We are going to do something terrible to you. We are going to deprive you of an enemy."

The Soviets are moving with uncommon speed. They are halfway in their unilateral withdrawal from Afghanistan. They have pressured the Vietnamese to withdraw their 100,000-man occupation army from Cambodia, and they have convinced the Cubans to pull out their 40,000 troops from Angola.

If Mr. Gorbachev will not categorically and officially renounce the Marxist-Leninist prediction of worldwide revolution—which tends to become a self-fulfilling prophecy—we will believe that his initiatives are honest, not a mere tactical retreat to rejuvenate a sclerotic economy in crisis.

Peace seems to be contagious. Iran and Iraq are observing a truce for the first time in their 8-year war. The Chinese do not want their former proteges, Pol Pot's genocidal Khmer Rouge, back in Cambodia. An amazing leaderless People Power mass action in Burma is close to breaking 26 years of quasi-military, one-party socialist rule.

All of which makes the NPA and its uninterrupted armed struggle something of an anomaly.

Blas Ople, the closest thing that the Philippines has to a statesman, calls the NPA insurgency "historically outmoded." He says that the rapprochement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have brought about "a remarkable reduction in political tensions that should have some bearing on the internal problems of the Philippines."

Mr. Ople correctly states that the trends in the USSR and China towards liberalization and away from the rigid orthodoxies of the past "will deprive Philippine Communists and their armed wing of a major historical stimulus."

The increasing use of market forces for economic growth in these socialist states "is equivalent to a major strategic disaster for the most doctrinaire of the Philippine Communists and the loss of an important ideological stimulus for the insurgency...driving the Communist insurgents to a historic and strategic deadend..."

"Tactically, they remain a potent force capable of raising serious threats at localized levels, but strategically they have become isolated and are fast-approaching a deadend..."

Mr. Ople foresees the CPP later joining the political mainstream as a constitutional and legal party as violent options to power cease to be workable.

While feudal social relations prevail in most of Philippine society, there will be cause for the CPP/NDF to continue their political struggle, which will remain a formidable threat. But the need for the armed struggle has long since passed, since there are avenues for dissent open to them in the democratic space created for them by the Aquino government.

They must, however, keep in mind that having access to avenues for dissent does not automatically mean everyone will be convinced of the justness of their cause. They must compete fairly and openly in the free market of ideas and must accept the very real possibility that even after a frenetic expenditure of hot air and venom, the overwhelming majority of Filipinos may still reject the One and Only Truth.

Thailand

Chatchai Delivers Policy Statement to Assembly *BK2508085988 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0240 GMT 25 Aug 88*

[Thai Government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Major General Chatchai Chunhawan to National Assembly on 25 August—live]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr National Assembly President and distinguished members of the National Assembly: In accordance with the royal decree dated 4 August 1988 appointing me prime minister and the decree dated 9 August 1988 appointing the cabinet, I and the cabinet ministers have set a policy for national administration, taking into consideration the people's happiness; development of administration along the democratic system with the king as head of state; and development of the economy, society, national security, and Thailand's status in Southeast Asia and the world. Thus, I wish to make the following policy statement:

The government is determined to uphold and preserve the institutions of the nation, religion, and the monarchy and the democratic administrative system with the king as head of state. It will do everything possible to bring about the people's happiness and progress. Thereby, the government has formulated the following policy.

1. It will promote and assist development of the role of political parties to make them correspond with the democratic system with the king as head of state and stimulate true understanding of the democratic system among the people, as well as their awareness of their duties and responsibilities as citizens and their greater political participation both at the national and local levels.

2. It will promote and improve decentralization of administrative power to the regional and local levels.

To increase efficiency of national administration to best satisfy the wishes of the people, the government has formulated the following policy:

1. Improve the welfare of government officials and employees in the interest of their morale in carrying out their duties. Eliminate corrupt or incompetent officials and employees.

2. Improve the bureaucratic system to speed up services to the people in the capital, regional, and local areas.

3. Improve the salaries and remuneration to government officials, tambon [sub-district leader] chiefs, village chiefs, and other local government officials to meet the cost of living.

The goal of this government is to conduct the economic policy in such a way that will create happiness and well-being among the people. The government will keep the economic system flexible and adjustable to changes in the world economic system so Thailand will be able to build a firm economic foundation. The private sector will be able to compete on the world market, and a more efficient domestic market will be developed. Emphasis will put on promotion of distribution of income and maintenance of national economic stability and growth.

To reach the said objectives, the government has set the following economic policy:

1. General Economy [subhead]

- 1.1 The private sector will be encouraged to play the basic role in national economic development along the economic liberalism system, with the support and close cooperation of the government sector.

- 1.2 Actions will be taken so all government agencies and the private sector play a role contributing to the search for and development of trade and tourism markets, as well as foreign investment in the interest of creating employment and transfer of technology.

- 1.3 Balanced economic development strategies will be employed in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors.

- 1.4 Concentrate on development of the economic system through industrial and technological advancement, while retaining agriculture and the agro-industry as the important foundation for economic development.

- 1.5 Concentrate on distribution of economic progress to all regions and on continual rural development to earnestly solve the poverty and distribution of income problems upcountry. Also concentrate on creating jobs in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors.

1.6 Improve laws and regulations to promote modern, more efficient economic activities, and reduce obstacles to economic activities that benefit the country at large.

1.7. Promote development of skilled labor to serve the fast-expanding national economy.

1.8. Promote and develop production of agricultural and industrial products for export.

2. Fiscal Policy [subhead]

2.1 Improve the tax structure and the collection system to make them equitable and conducive to economic expansion.

2.2 Set fiscal and monetary measures to serve and support development of the private sector in the interest of efficiency, thus strengthening the overall economic position.

2.3 Concentrate on maintaining stability of the economic system through increasing the government's efficiency in management of its spending and controlling debt creation to the limits which correspond with the country's capabilities, as well as maintaining strict and continued fiscal and monetary discipline.

2.4 Develop and strengthen the monetary system to mobilize greater domestic savings and improve the efficiency of the money and capital markets so that they will be conducive to investment and secure national financial institutions.

2.5 Concentrate on promoting financial and monetary management at the local levels so that they will be more independent and efficient.

3. Industry [subhead]

3.1 Promote the spread of industries upcountry by providing facilities, safety, and sufficient incentives, as well as appropriate financial and monetary support.

3.2 Place high priority on industries which use indigenous labor and raw materials, and—based on market certainty and suitable sites—on technology-based industries.

3.3 Concentrate on promotion of medium and small industries and export industries as a major foundation for the country's industry system.

4. Agriculture [subhead]

4.1 Increase income of farmers by promoting and improving the production system to correspond with the domestic and foreign markets, as well as earnestly and permanently solving the problem of decline in prices of agricultural products.

4.2 Concentrate on greater full-cycle agricultural development by providing technology service and credit, production, and market information assistance to increase productivity and quality and reduce production costs at the farm level.

4.3. Assist landless farmers through land reform measures and issuance of land use documents.

4.4 Establish joint organizations of the government, private, and farm sectors to participate in formulating agricultural development policies and resolving problems.

5. Natural Resources and Environment [subhead]

5.1 Improve the system of administration and management of natural resources consisting of land, water resources, forests, fisheries, minerals, and energy throughout the country, so that they will generate the greatest benefit for the country and quality of life for the people.

5.2 Encourage systematic and continued conservation, rehabilitation, and development of natural resources and environment.

5.3 Accelerate the commission of personnel and research in utilization of natural resources and conservation of environment.

6. Services [subhead]

6.1 Develop the tourism promotion plan to create jobs and draw more foreign currencies, while retaining Thai cultural values.

6.2 Increase the capability of public utilities and services so they will support economic development, and promote the private sector to make investments to sufficiently meet the increased demand.

6.3 Improve administration of state enterprises for efficiency so that they will be able to expand their services to cope with the economic growth.

The government is determined to develop science and technology so that the country is sufficiently prepared to satisfy the demand for scientific and technological capabilities in national economic and social development and for laying the groundwork for technological self-sufficiency in the long term. It has, therefore, formulated its policy as follows:

1. Promote and stimulate the use of science and technology in increasing productivity and giving additional value to industrial and agricultural products and to the energy sector, and in managing the environment and natural resources, and in national defense.

2. Strengthen organizations in charge of managing research, development, and transfer of technology so that they serve as sources in mobilizing scientific and technological expertise from inside and outside the country, and from the private sector, for production and marketing research and development.

3. Modernize the procedures and mechanism of managing the information system in order to increase efficiency of the private sector in competing with its foreign counterparts.

4. Concentrate on the development of human resources in science and technology on a continual basis in order to produce sufficient manpower in this field for economic and social development.

To maintain national security and preserve independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and to protect national interests efficiently, the government has formulated a policy as follows:

1. It will improve and develop the Armed Forces so their manpower will be appropriate, and so they will be efficient, combat ready, and modern in the interest of the country's defense and deterrence capabilities against all levels of threats, with due consideration of the country's economic position.

2. It will develop a reserve force and keep it ready and fully capable for quick and efficient expansion of strength in time of war.

3. It will promote and make every effort to acquire full readiness in national resources necessary for mobilization of national strength for defense of the country.

4. It will encourage and promote military research and development and standardization of domestic production of military supplies by cooperating with the civil service, the private sector, and allies in order to gain maximum self-sufficiency.

5. It will unify the national defense forces—the military, paramilitary, police, and all types of civilian volunteers, as well as the civil servants and the people, in defending the country from internal and external threats.

6. It will encourage and promote the role of the Armed Forces in national development, welfare assistance for the people, and public disaster relief.

7. It will boost the morale and spirit of the military by improving welfare and living conditions, and by developing and educating military servicemen in vocational skills and capabilities so that they are sufficiently prepared to return to civilian life after their service is over.

8. It will support war veterans and their families, especially disabled war veterans and families of those killed in national defense service, so that they can make a decent living.

The government will conduct an independent foreign policy based on the national interest to preserve national independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, and protect and strengthen state security and national interests. It will use foreign affairs to promote national economic growth. It will encourage coordination among government agencies and between the government and private sector in order to promote efficiency and consistency of policy. Moreover, the government will cooperate with other countries and international organizations in activities which are advantageous to national security and development. The foreign policy is as follows:

1. The government will uphold and safeguard rights under agreements signed with foreign countries on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and justice. It will respect and promote the implementation of the principles of the UN Charter and the International Convention on Human Rights.

2. It will promote peace and the peaceful coexistence of all countries on the basis of respect for national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, justice, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, and resolution of international conflicts through peaceful means.

3. The government will improve economic and political relations, especially in expanding mutual trade and promoting good understanding and friendship with neighboring countries to coexist peacefully and in harmony in a way that benefits our mutual interests. It also will seek to resolve regional and international conflicts through political and diplomatic means and will promote resolutions to that end.

4. It will promote and strengthen friendly relations, political, economic, and social cooperation, and unity of ASEAN countries, and will support measures to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality, in order to achieve genuine peace and political and economic stability in Southeast Asia.

5. It will maintain and develop balanced relations with all major powers, in keeping with national interests, in a way which enhances national stability and security and promotes economic prosperity, and in a way which is conducive to cooperation and resolution of various problems, in order to achieve peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific.

6. It will promote ties with developing as well as developed countries, both at the bilateral and multilateral level, to enable economic and technical cooperation, expansion of markets for agricultural and industrial products, tourism, sources of foreign capital and raw

materials, technology and knowledge, and to develop human resources necessary for national development, which is vital for economic growth and improvement of the quality of life of the people.

7. It will take action to disseminate information so that other countries as well as the general public in Thailand understand Thailand's foreign policy and conduct of foreign relations. It will promote public relations work and publicize Thai culture abroad so as to make Thailand and the Thai people better known and understood by foreigners.

8. It will give protection and protect the rights and interests of the Thai people, and national interests as a whole, to ensure fair treatment from all countries.

The government is determined to create social justice and improve the people's quality of life through education and public health development and give assurance for security in their lives. It will also promote morality in the people and preserve arts, culture, and national identity. Thus, the government has formulated the following policy.

1. Peace and Order in Society [subhead]

1.1. Maintain peace and order in society and resolutely prevent and suppress crimes and narcotics.

1.2. Propose and amend laws to be in accordance with current social conditions and to make them more equitable.

1.3. Develop and improve the justice system by increasing its efficiency and speed, and extend the service of the justice system to a greater number of people.

1.4. Speed up the improvement of laws, regulations, and agencies dealing with labor to increase their efficiency.

1.5. Find ways and means to quickly and permanently resolve the problem of refugees and displaced persons from neighboring countries and increase assistance to Thai people in the border areas affected by the refugee problem, with cooperation of concerned countries and international organizations.

2. Education [subhead]

2.1. Spread out opportunities for education to reach all people by putting emphasis on improving the production and development of manpower in accordance with national demands, and improve the quality and equality in the education system in order to promote ethics, science and technology, and life-long education, as well as economic, social, and personal health development; and promote the preservation of religion, arts, and culture.

2.2. Encourage the private sector to play a greater role in education.

2.3. Speed up the promotion of kindergarten education in the rural areas and the expansion of educational opportunity at the secondary level along with the expansion of compulsory education; provide occupational training for students of all levels in order to cope with the unemployment problem; and promote morality, ethics, and discipline among students and the people in general.

2.4. Instill the attitude of loyalty to the nation, the religion, and the monarchy, as well as to the democratic system in which the monarch is the head of state.

2.5. Support research and experimentation to enable academic progress, so that their results can be applied in national development and improvement of the quality of life of the people.

3. Public Health [subhead]

3.1. Speed up all works in primary health services, both in rural areas and in urban slums.

3.2. Improve the quality of all government public health services at all levels, with an emphasis on increasing efficiency of the management of public health works, the information system, and organizations in coordination and personnel development to keep them at the ready for both peacetime and emergencies. This will be based on the principles of efficiency and economy.

3.3. Improve the existing health insurance system and provide welfare to low-income people and others who deserve assistance.

3.4. Support all agencies and organizations to work in raising the standard of health of the people and in promoting healthy habits; improve health education; resolve dental hygiene problems; and improve laws to facilitate public health development, especially with regard to laws on quality control of the environment and consumer protection.

3.5. Revive traditional Thai medicine and the use of herbs in accordance with local needs; revive and strengthen the domestic pharmaceutical industry in order to be self-sufficient in this field; emphasize safety and effectiveness in medical treatment at an appropriate price; spread medical services to all people; and promote the food and drug industries and others for export.

4. Social Services [subhead]

4.1. Fully support sports in order to improve the quality of life, and develop and raise the standards of sportsmen for better international competition.

4.2. Speed up housing aid to low-income people, especially in the provinces, with actions by both the government and the private sector.

4.3. Develop and improve the quality of life of urban slum dwellers in a systematic way.

4.4. Promote coordination between government agencies and private organizations in the development of women, children, and youth and in welfare for the old and disabled.

4.5. Promote religious institutions and private organizations to play a greater role in the process of national economic and social development.

Respected National Assembly president and distinguished members of the National Assembly: I wish to assure you that the government will administer the affairs of the country on the principle of honesty and in accordance with the policy statement, and it will strictly implement this policy statement to bring progress to the country and peace, happiness, and prosperity to the people. Thank you.

Opposition Responds to Statement

BK2508120188 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
25 Aug 88 Afternoon Edition p 1

[Text] Opposition leaders this morning launched a barrage of attacks against the "veil of ambiguity" permeating the government's policy statement, carried live on radio broadcast, to a joint session of Parliament.

Both the House and the Senate were called to business at 9:30 am by Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnavin, who said each opposition MP will be given 15 minutes to comment on the policy statement. Only Cabinet members will be allowed to respond to the MPs' remarks, he said.

After Prime Minister Chatchai Chunnawan read his policy statement, Ruam Thai Opposition leader Narong Wongwan said the government policy was "far from comprehensive".

"It lacks clarity and it is impossible for anybody to understand the policy," Narong said.

The Ruam Thai leader said the policy statement should have comprised three components—targets, plans and policy measures.

"From the policy statement, we can see that the government has good intentions, but good intentions which—regrettably—are not based on firm ground," he said.

Turning to the communications policy, Narong said the government fails to mention anything meaningful in this field.

He said: "It appears that the Cabinet has supreme confidence in the communications minister and so it has given the minister ample room for interpreting and carrying out the communications policy."

Narong said the policy statement on agriculture was also devoid of substance.

The government outlined only four policy items to help farmers who make up the majority of the Thai people.

"That's so easy," he said, declaring that "anybody could draft such an agriculture policy."

The former agriculture minister said the government should have elaborated on how it could help raise the crop prices and enhance the farmers' living standards.

In addition, it also should have mentioned the Green Isan project because it is an important project for farmers in the Northeast, Narong said.

On industrial estates, Narong said the government should have mentioned in the policy statement that they would be located near cultivating zones and sources of raw material.

The government, he said, should also pledge tax privileges and other facilities to lure investment into industrial zones.

Without sufficient investment incentives, the industrial estates would make little headway and farmers would continue to suffer from their state of poverty, he said.

Narong said the government also failed to spell out its labour policy despite the fact that it is the second most important aspect after the aim of uprooting rural poverty.

Prachachon leader Chaloephan Siwikon, taking a shot at Interior Minister Praman Adireksan's suggestion to set up casinos, said that he was relieved that the matter did not appear in the policy statement.

"That is probably the only good aspect of the statement," he quipped.

Chaloephan, assigned by opposition parties to scrutinize industrial and investment areas, questioned why the government failed to allude to the national fertilizer project, which he said was extremely important to future economic growth of the country.

He said that last year alone, the country imported up to about baht 6 billion worth of fertilizer, or about 1.6 million tons.

Chaloephan also pointed to the absence of an electric train project to overcome the worsening traffic woes in the Metropolis.

He said measures to relieve the traffic congestion was obviously lacking in the policy statement.

The number of vehicles has increased by about 10 percent annually compared to one percent expansion in the road surface of the city, he said.

He claimed that the traffic snarls cost the country about baht 50 million daily in fuel and maintenance costs.

Community Action Party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian said the government's policy is not original and had been evidently copied from the previous administration. Moreover, the language used in the policy statement is too academic, similar to that used by the National Economic and Social Development Board.

"This kind of language does not make any sense to the people," he said.

Although the government has pledged to continue the Prem Administration's policy, the policy on energy and communications was missing.

Lao Border Policy Criticized

BK2608012588 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
26 Aug 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Puang Chon Chao Thai party leader Gen Athit Kamlang-ek brought up the recent fighting with Laos and disputed territory at the border in criticising the Government's foreign policy during yesterday's policy debate.

The former supreme commander and army commander-in-chief said Thailand was "bruised" by a lack of progress on the two issues while the government has refused to say what it would do about Thailand's "loss of sovereignty" in the area.

Gen Athit said he had agreed in 1984 to withdraw Thai troops from three villages claimed by both Thailand and Laos so the country could win a seat on the UN Security Council.

On the Ban Rom Klao incident, he said Thailand and Laos both agreed to withdraw forces three kilometres from the disputed area, but so far no progress had been made on a long-term settlement.

"The foreign policy states that peaceful means will be used to resolve international conflicts, but the Foreign Ministry has never said what it would do. What peaceful means would it use in these cases? If they do not speak we may lose our sovereignty over the territories needlessly," Gen Athit said.

The former Army chief told reporters he had felt compelled to raise the two issues during the debate "because the government had been silent for too long on the issue." [passage omitted]

He also criticised concerns from the military that the fight against communism in Thailand cannot be stopped. "If poverty cannot be solved and the people lack something they can depend on, then the communists will make a re-entry," Gen Athit said. [passage omitted]

'Army Source' Discloses Reshuffle of Generals

BK2508144988 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
21 Aug 88 p 24

[Text] An Army source has disclosed to MATICHON that the considerations for reshuffling military officers at the general rank in the Army were completed. General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief, is to submit the list to the permanent secretary of the Defense Ministry and the defense minister to be forwarded to his majesty the king for royal approval.

The source said that important Army officers will be transferred this year as follows: General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, deputy Army commander in chief, will be transferred from the Army to take up the post of deputy supreme commander; Army Chief of Staff General Charuai Wongsayan will become deputy Army commander in chief; General Suchinda Khrapayun, assistant Army commander in chief, will become Army chief of staff; Lieutenant General Watthanachai Wutthisiri, 1st Army region commander, will be assistant Army chief of staff; Lieutenant General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, 2d Army Region commander in chief, will be made 1st Army commander; Lieutenant General Ratsami Wongphrommek, commander of the Saraburi-based Cavalry Center, will become assistant Army chief of staff for civilian affairs; Lieutenant General Wimon Wongwanit, Special Warfare Center commander, will become 2d Army Region commander; Major General San Siphon, 1st Army Division commander, will become 1st regional commander; Major General Somphon Toemthongchai, deputy 2d Army commander, will be 2d regional commander; Major General Mongkhon Amphonphisit, 9th Infantry Division commander, will be 1st Army Division commander.

The Army source said that several graduates of Chulachomklao Military Academy Class 5 will be promoted to hold key posts in this year's reshuffle, for example: General Suchinda, who is the leader of the Chulachomklao Military Academy Class 5 graduates, will be promoted from the post of assistant Army commander in chief to Army chief of staff; Lt Gen Itsaraphong will be moved from the post of 2d Army Region commander to become 1st Army Region commander; Lt Gen Wimon, Special Warfare Center commander, will be promoted to 2d Army Region commander; and Maj Gen San, 1st Army Division commander, will be made 1st regional commander.

The source also noted that the transfer of Lt Gen Watthanachai to the post of assistant Army chief of staff seems to be a demotion by one step, because Lt Gen

Watthanachai, who holds the post of 1st Army Region commander, can be promoted to receive a full general position. If he is transferred to the post of assistant Army chief of staff, he will have to be promoted to deputy Army chief of staff before receiving the rank of full general, unless he gets a special consideration.

"Moreover, it is noteworthy that Major General Mongkhon—a former aide-de-camp of former Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon, who has been in the 9th Infantry Division for less than 2 years—is being considered for promotion to 1st Army Division commander," the source said.

Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, defense minister, told reporters that he had not yet received the annual military reshuffle list. He cannot give any comment until he gets the list. He also said that he had never concealed anything from the people.

Asked whether there will be any special consideration in this year's reshuffle, Maj Gen Chatchai said that there will be no special cases. He also said that the commanders of the Armed Forces will make decisions based on seniority and that he will not interfere.

Khukrit on Army at Cabinet Meetings, Opposition
BK2508154388 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
22 Aug 88 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Speaking to reporters at his home on the evening of 21 August about Prime Minister Major General Chatchai Chunhawan inviting military representatives to attend cabinet meetings, M.R. Khukrit Pramot said that it was Chatchai's decision, and he did not think it was unusual. He said military representatives would merely be attending but would have no speaking or voting privilege. Normally, cabinet meetings do not discuss secret issues. Even if there are secret issues, military representatives have to behave in the same way as civil servants. Asked about the issue being a topic of much discussion in political circles, Khukrit agreed, saying for that reason he would not comment because it could cause the issue to become more prominent.

Asked to comment about a view that the invitation to the military to attend cabinet meetings was designed to benefit longevity of the government, which came from an election, Khukrit said the matter did not concern the question of longevity. He said he had a military officer—who has now risen to the lieutenant general rank—assigned to him when he was prime minister; the officer would know about everything he did. He said it is a privilege of the prime minister to invite military representatives to attend cabinet meetings, though he does not know the reason for the invitation.

"If you ask me whether such an action damages the prime minister, I can say that there is no harm. But in the democratic system, if people indicate that they are unhappy with an action, the prime minister may change his mind and not do it," Khukrit said.

Asked about the current political situation, Khukrit said he did not want to comment about government performance now because he is keeping an eye on it the same way as the opposition bloc. The opposition's comment about the appointment of the cabinet being unconstitutional is merely an expression of opinion; it was not aimed at toppling the government. It has said that it will end the matter after submitting the case to the king. It felt that the government made a mistake, but it also knew that persuing the matter in parliament would not help its cause. [passage omitted]

Columnist Views Chatchai Invitation
BK2508025988 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
25 Aug 88 p 6

["Maeo Mong" [Scout] column: "Greenery [Army uniform color] at Weekly [Cabinet] Meetings"]

[Text] It was a brilliant idea, and for the life of me I fail to see why everyone got so uptight over it. Fact is, Na [Uncle] Chat's [Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's] suggestion to have one of the boys in green sit in on Cabinet meetings really wasn't as far out as everyone seems to think, for do we or don't we have a Government of the people for the people and by the people?

Of the people? Certainly, for—applause, applause—they were all democratically elected. For the people? How could you possibly think otherwise? By the people? But of course—and the more the merrier! That Na Chat and his merry men subscribe to this theory is abundantly clear, for if memory serves, they have between them appointed enough advisers and political appointees to sink a battleship. Na Chat—after all, he is the No. 1 honcho—got to appoint something like 149 souls. The boys over at SAP [Social Action Party] made do with 42. The Democrats, exhausted no doubt by the washing and airing of their dirty linen in public over the last 12 months, have kept mum on what they've done. But, as it's highly unlikely that they'd settle for less than 30 or so buddies—all a matter of face you know—while Ratsadon, UDP [United Democratic Party] and Muan Chon between them could possibly account for another 20 odd people, the grand total is probably in the vicinity of something like 240 people. And that, my friends, is a figure equal to the 220 MPs in the five parties plus a few extras! But why stop there? If we're all going to share in the work of running the country, then we've got to have a representative of the boys in green. As Na Chat says, we need them for emergencies. And let's have a labour rep, for they might come in handy given our penchant for wildcat strikes. A foreign rep too, for don't we want foreign investment? And let's not forget a media rep, for at the very least he'd probably produce better reports

than the PRD [Public Relations Department] or the MCOT [Mass Communications of Thailand]. Now that would be sanuk di! [great fun].

Editorial on Military in Cabinet

BK2608034588 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
24 Aug 88 p 8

[Editorial: "The Armed Forces and the Government"]

[Text] Prime Minister Major General Chatchai Chunhawan has complied with the wish of the people who opposed his idea of having commanders of the Armed Forces attend Cabinet meetings to make the commanders more fully informed about the government's administration of the country and thus enhance government stability. Instead of jumping at the idea, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the Army commander and acting supreme commander, rejected the prime minister's idea, reasoning that the views of the people opposing the idea should be given consideration.

For listening to opposing views, the prime minister and the Army commander deserve praise. This action characterizes a democratic system which will enable the government and Parliament to last, more so than having representatives of the military or other establishments attend Cabinet meetings.

It is true that instability and weakness of the Thai democratic system forced past governments to try to solve the problem in order to remain in power long enough to serve the people. The idea of bringing in military representatives to attend Cabinet meetings is an attempt to solve the problem. However, taking reason, principle, and repercussions into consideration, the person who made the proposal and the person whom the proposal was intended to benefit agreed that there is a better way. This is because the image of an elected government would be tarnished—giving the idea that it lacks confidence in its authority and role in government. Participation of the military in Cabinet meetings will confuse the overall system in which the duty of permanent officials is to carry out the policy of political officials and in which they do not interfere in each other's work. Based on this principle, the Constitution stipulation that permanent officials will not hold political posts is aimed at guaranteeing the power of political officials who are elected by the people. Attendance of permanent officials in Cabinet meetings for no special reason would risk violation of the said principle. At the same time, growth and efficiency of the political sector would also diminish. On the contrary, if the political and permanent officials perform their separate duties based on the principles of law and the democratic system, there is a great chance that complete democracy can be established in Thailand.

If the political sector steps up development of its internal mechanism and operating systems of the Cabinet, the office of the secretary general to the prime minister, and

offices of the ministerial secretaries, to ensure that only policy issues are discussed in Cabinet meetings, the government will be able to control permanent officials so it can carry out its policy and correctly tackle the people's problem in a timely and successful manner.

Chawalit's View of Democracy Questioned

BK2608014788 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Aug 88 p 8

[Editorial entitled: "A Guided-Democracy To Cope With the Communist Threat?"]

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut on Wednesday once again warned the country of what he considers a permeating threat of communists to Thai society.

He made the warning in his address on national security at a conference of the Boy Scouts Council of Thailand. The forum was a rather unusual place to sound the alarm. The press, nevertheless, picked up his message and played it up prominently.

Gen Chawalit claimed that "communists are everywhere", "communists are jubilant now that Gen Prem Tinsulanon—the head of Thai democracy—has been removed," and "communists have begun a new and invincible offensive." These words are very interesting. Too bad no reporters had a chance to ask the Army chief to elaborate on these claims.

However, Prime Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan didn't mention any communist threat in his policy statement to Parliament yesterday.

If Gen Chawalit's claims are true, our society is certainly in grave danger. What then does he propose to do to cope with the communists?

Gen Chawalit called for "development of the society into a democratic society" in which elected representatives not only win their election through legitimate means, but must also be conscientious and ethical in their judgment and action.

This is fine. We certainly agree with Gen Chawalit.

But the Army chief seems to distrust politicians and implicitly blames them for Gen Prem's decision to decline an invitation to head a new coalition government. This is rather unusual. For as far as we know, Gen Prem has said he made his decision without any undue pressure, and he thinks it's time for elected civilian representatives to take over the task of developing democracy.

Some elected representatives and some Cabinet members may appear to have a questionable background. But we have to give them the benefit of the doubt and let them have a fair chance to show us what they can do for

the public interest. We may privately distrust some of them. But we are not afraid of them because there are constitutional means to remove them from offices and punish them. This is public accountability which is one of the pillars of democracy.

Another key democratic principle is civilian control of the military. But Gen Chavalit doesn't seem ready for it yet. He doesn't believe politicians know how to handle the communist threat.

Therefore, it is unclear what kind of "democratic society" Gen Chavalit has in mind. It certainly doesn't seem like anything which can be developed from the existing parliamentary system. From what we can gather so far, it looks like he envisions a democracy guided by the military in a perpetual struggle with the communists.

Economic Board Told To Stop Interference

BK2508053988 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] The National Economic and Social Development Board [NESDB] should stop interfering in the works of government agencies and let them perform their duties freely, PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri said yesterday.

Dr Anuwat was speaking to NESDB officials during a visit to the agency's offices.

NESDB Secretary-General Sano Unakun welcomed the minister and said in a briefing that the NESDB is responsible for "laying down social and economic development plans and analysing work programmes and projects of government agencies".

Dr Sano stressed that the NESDB role is limited to providing recommendations according to "academic principles", and that the power to make decisions rests with the Cabinet.

Dr Anuwat, who has been assigned to supervise the NESDB, the Budget Bureau and the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, told NESDB officials he had heard complaints that the body has interfered in the operations of various ministries and departments.

The Chat Thai deputy leader said the NESDB has been dubbed by politicians "the office of the thewada (deities)".

Dr Anuwat also voiced opposition to setting up too many committees. He said various Government agencies have responsibilities "and they should be allowed to do their jobs".

"If the NESDB seeks information on various matters by itself, it inevitably has conflicts with units responsible for those matters. The NESDB should not do that anymore," said the Buri Ram MP.

"Don't interfere with them in a way that they feel their authority is curtailed."

He also cautioned the NESDB against commenting on important projects, saying it could hamper development work.

He said private individuals, on hearing of projects, tend to purchase nearby land expecting high profits.

"Whenever I heard the Highway Department director-general say a highway would be built, I felt unhappy because this could mean several thousand million baht was involved," said Dr Anuwat.

Dr Sano countered that the NESDB, throughout its 38 years in development work, has seen "many changes in the development process".

"Development work these days involves increasingly more Government agencies, making it necessary for the NESDB to lay down a sequel of development plans to solve all problems systematically," he said.

Dr Sano said NESDB recommendations may not be in agreement with the ideas of concerned ministries, but the executive power remains in the hands of the Government.

Government Official Hails U.S. Action on GSP

BK2608010588 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
26 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] Washington has vetoed a petition seeking to cut Thailand's Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges on the grounds of labour welfare deficiencies, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

United States diplomats told the ministry the rejection would soon be announced by the US Trade Representative, said Prasit Chaiwirat, deputy secretary to Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Mr Prasit said the representative's rejection of the petition, filed by the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations, was a success for the Government and its mission in Washington.

The official said the rejection was praiseworthy in view of the AFL-CIO's threat to raise the issue in the Congress and use it in the presidential campaign against Republican candidate George Bush.

While the decision has gone Thailand's way, said Mr Prasit, GSP privileges could still be jeopardized by US demands for patent and copyright protection.

The Thai Embassy in Washington needs to continue lobbying to present the country's case on these issues, he said.

SRV's Nguyen Co Thach Continues Visit

Creates 'Confusion' Among Leaders

BK2508051988 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
25 Aug 88 p 2

[By "THE NATION's Regional Desk": "Thach's Fishing Politics Nets Gain in First Catch"]

[Excerpts] Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach is in Thailand at the right moment—when the new administration has just assumed office. On his way back home from a trip to Poland, he can stop over for a few days to test the Thai political waters.

The Vietnamese can also find out at first hand whether Thailand's foreign policy is due to have marked changes, if any, particularly from the present hardline stand on Hanoi.

Then it would also be fruitful if Thach can find out how serious was the word of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan when he said recently that he would turn Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace for Thai products.

The Vietnamese foreign minister might have been disappointed in a way that Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila still holds sway in Saranrom Palace [where the Foreign Ministry is located]. Thach is well aware that he cannot do anything to change that. The two have been on-and-off verbal adversaries who frequently squared off on the negotiating table on the complicated Kampuchean problem.

It was also Sitthi's success in garnering strong support from the international community on Thailand's stand on the Kampuchean problem—the achievement which almost isolates Vietnam from the free world.

Nevertheless, it would be quite off the mark if we were to say with full conviction that the intention of Thach to be in Bangkok is to try his experienced hands and fish in the undercurrent of the delicate tripartite relationship of the three major coalition partners—Chat Thai, Social Action and Democrat. [passage omitted]

Given the current structure of Thai leadership and the fragile relationship among the coalition partners, it is a very good opportunity for Thach to test the Thai leadership. Apparently he did so, though it was based on the desire to have first high-level contact with the new administration.

Strange in a way that when Thach is in Bangkok, he has not firstly sought a meeting with Sitthi who is his counterpart, so that they can plough on for more progress in the talks on Kampuchea. Instead, Thach wants to meet [Deputy Prime Minister] Phichai and Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan for discussion.

It cannot be forgotten that both Chatchai and Phichai were former foreign ministers and Sitthi is the incumbent. The three know how important the position is, particularly if one wants to chalk up some positive political scores.

Again, strange as it seems, Thach did not even utter a word about his Thai counterpart after his arrival. He looked frail. But then he sought to meet the premier and Phichai in what could be some sort of underhanded negotiations and thereby inflicting an embarrassment on Sitthi.

We could not say that Phichai has almost, knowingly or not, nibbled the bait. But his early statement on the record was that he would soon visit Vietnam to pursue negotiations on fishing.

According to one source, Sitthi felt he was being upstaged by the Vietnamese counterpart. His position was being undercut by the offer to grant fishing licences and the Thai willingness to sit down to discuss only non Kampuchea issues.

But it did not take long for Sitthi to read Thach's cards. He unequivocally stated that there would be no talks on trade cooperation including fishing unless the Kampuchean problem is resolved.

Whether the bait was swallowed or not, Vietnam was quite successful in creating at least confusion among Thai government leaders, particularly Chatchai, Phichai and Sitthi.

There was a press release from the Government House yesterday. It stated that Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires Tran Viet Tan called on Phichai in the morning to find out when the deputy prime minister would visit Hanoi to pursue the fishing talks. [passage omitted]

If the press release could not serve as a clear proof that there was an attempt to create a furor and an atmosphere of distrust among the three [Chatchai, Phichai, and Sitthi], there was a strong evidence yesterday.

Montri Danphaibun, secretary to Sitthi, issued a statement denying that the Foreign Ministry had blocked an attempt of Thach to have a meeting with Phichai.

"Foreign Minister Sitthi was at the Political Affairs Department and made it clear that if Thach wants to see him, he could do so, and if the Vietnamese deputy prime minister wants instead a meeting with either the prime minister or Deputy Premier Phichai, he could also do so," said Montri.

Montri said that Sitthi had a meeting with Phichai to clear up possible misunderstanding. Phichai made it a point that if Thach wants to meet with him, he should go through the formal channel, which means that contact must be made through the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Judging from the events, Vietnam's fishing licences might not have hooked a big fish because the Thai side is expected to patch up whatever difference which has cropped up among them later. At least it was successful in stirring up the calm waters into troubled ones for the Thai leadership.

Offers To Boost Trade Ties

BK2608015388 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach will today propose sending a high-level delegation here to discuss economic and trade relations with Thailand in response to the prime minister's call for more trade with Indochina, informed sources told THE NATION last night.

Thach is scheduled to meet Chatchai Chunhawan today at 9 am at the Government House to also discuss the Kampuchean problem. Then Thach will meet Sitthi at the Foreign Ministry at 10 am to be followed by a visit with Deputy Premier Phichai Rattakun at 11 am.

In a press statement to be released today, Vietnam welcomes Chatchai's declaration that he would turn the battlefield of Indochina into a marketplace for Thai products.

The implementation of Chatchai's policy, the press statement says, will be a turning point for Southeast Asia to achieve peaceful co-existence.

Thach, who is leaving for Hanoi this afternoon, will hail the good Thai-Vietnamese relations, for they will contribute positively to an early political solution to the Kampuchean conflict.

Vietnam will reaffirm its pledge to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea at the end of next year or the first quarter of 1990 at the earliest, according to the press statement.

Informed sources also said that Vietnam has expressed interest in purchasing 100,000 tons of Thai rice to alleviate the grain shortage in Vietnam in exchange for coal, fishing licenses and some trade credits.

Chatchai, declaring his national policy yesterday at the Parliament, saw his foreign policy come under attack by the Opposition, who said that as long as Thailand's policy on Kampuchea remains unchanged, it would be difficult to make Indochina a buyer of Thai products.

Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment last night.

Earlier confusion over the scheduled meeting between Thach and Phichai was finally sorted out. Chatchai, Phichai and Sitthi agreed to meet Thach yesterday.

Burmese Rally at Embassy in Bangkok

BK2608015988 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Aug 88 p 4

[Text] Burmese residents in Bangkok yesterday rallied at the Burmese Embassy to denounce the Rangoon government for the second consecutive day, but this time under the watchful eyes of Thai police.

But the police officers—about 20 from Special Branch and others from Yannawa station—had nothing to worry about as more than 150 protesters, mostly students and office workers, staged a peaceful rally, one better organized than Wednesday's. This time cold drinks and fruits were given out along with red headbands imprinted with white doves.

The demonstration began at 1 pm and lasted for an hour as people marched between the embassy and the military attache office-cum-residence about 150 metres away.

Some police chiefs tried but failed to find out who organized the group. As one protester told police: "Everybody here is an organizer."

The protesters again strongly denounced the military regime in Burma, shouting slogans and waving colourful placards urging an end to the one-party system of socialist rule in Burma, the ouster of unwanted leaders, the release of all political prisoners and the setting up of a long-overdue democratic system.

Some of the placards read: "Down with Tyranny!", "Don't Trust Ne Win's Tricks", "Power to The People", and "Welcome to Democracy."

Col Wanlop Watchanaphuk, senior inspector of the metropolitan bureau, said a Burmese authority informed him that the embassy did not mind such a gathering as long as demonstrators did not resort to violence.

The protesters obediently complied with Wanlop's request not to climb the embassy wall to hang up insulting posters.

According to Yannawa Police Inspector Lt Col Phibunsiri Sakonsin, the police were to monitor the protest and to prevent violence. The police would make no arrests "as long as the protest is peaceful, and they don't break into the embassy or resort to violence," he said.

The group dispersed peacefully at about 2 pm due to an unexpected rain, and vowed to stage a bigger rally in September when the Burma Socialist Programme Party will meet at an emergency congress to consider popular demands to end authoritarian rule.

One protester strongly objected to the special session, saying that it is already a foregone conclusion that the nationwide public demonstrations indicate that they desire no less than a democratic, multi-party system and free elections in Burma.

Shells From Burmese Insurgents Damage Houses
BK2508153088 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Stray mortar shells fired by Burmese Mon and Karen rebels fighting each other on Tuesday damaged a number of houses in a Thai border village, a Thai provincial governor said.

Governor Prida Muttaharat of Kanchanaburi Province, 125 km northwest of Bangkok, said the shells damaged houses in a village in Three Pagodas Pass on the Thai-Burmese border, but there were no casualties. Mr Prida said provincial authorities were now taking care of about 500 people who have fled into Thailand seeking shelter from sporadic armed clashes between Mon and Karen guerrillas inside Burma.

Colonel Wibun Yingwiriya, deputy commander of the Kanchanaburi Army Garrison, said Thai troops were sent to the pass in late July to evict Mon and Karen guerrillas who were fighting on Thai soil.

Colonel Wibun said there were no clashes between Thai soldiers and the rebel groups, but we have made it clear to them that illegal entry is prohibited, let alone fighting in our territory. He acknowledged there were still occasional spillovers of the fighting, but that most of the refugees who sought temporary shelter have voluntarily returned home between lulls in the clashes.

Lao Army Chief To Visit in September
BK2508030188 Bangkok THE NATION in English
25 Aug 88 p 4

[Text] Laotian Chief of Armed Forces Gen Sisavat Keobounphan will visit Thailand as the guest of Commander-in-chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut early next month, a senior Thai military official said yesterday.

Gen Phat Akkhanibut, deputy army chief-of-staff, said after Sisavat's visit, Chawalit will reciprocate by leading a team of 70 to 80 officials to hold discussions with their Laotian counterparts in Vientiane.

He said both sides will discuss bilateral issues in order to strengthen bilateral relations.

Vietnam

Difficulties Seen in PRC-USSR Cambodia Talks
BK2608034888 Hong Kong AFP in English
0319 GMT 26 Aug 88

[By Gilles Campion]

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 26 (AFP)—Vietnam believes the unprecedented Sino-Soviet talks on Cambodia that begin Saturday [27 August] in Beijing will not amount to much, informed Vietnamese sources here say.

Hanoi is instead pinning its hopes on the meeting in France in November between Phnom Penh's Prime Minister Hun Sen and leading resistance figure Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the sources said.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and his Chinese counterpart Tian Zengpei "can only put very vague suggestions or propositions on Cambodia," one source said.

"It will be very difficult for them to discuss concrete solutions to the conflict, because it is us, the Vietnamese, who sent troops to Cambodia and it is us who will decide on their withdrawal," he said.

The sources said Vietnamese "volunteers" fighting in Cambodia since 1978 "could be withdrawn by mid-1990 at the latest."

"If there is a political solution, we could withdraw our troops earlier, perhaps at the end of 1989," one of the sources added.

"The Soviet Union would find it difficult to put pressure on Vietnam to withdraw from Cambodia, as Beijing demands, because many factors are involved," he added. "The Soviets can make suggestions to improve their relations with China, but not much is expected from the Rogachev-Tian meeting towards a solutions of the conflict."

According to the sources, the third meeting between Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk, the former Cambodian monarch and head of the U.N.-recognised resistance coalition, will be "much more important".

The two men met in France last December and January.

The Khmer Rouge, partners in the resistance coalition, last week proposed a peace plan that the sources said was drafted by China and contained several proposals unacceptable to Vietnam, including the dismantlement of the Phnom Penh regime.

But a Vietnamese Government spokesman was careful not to reject the plan.

"The current tendency is towards dialogue in the region and even if the Khmer Rouge plan offers nothing new, it is not in Vietnam's interest to close the door left ajar by China," one source said.

Diplomats in Hanoi believe Phnom Penh's rejection of the plan allows Vietnam to adopt a more qualified attitude that does not clash with China's.

Vietnam says the most important issue is to eliminate the danger of a return to power by supporters of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader whose four years in power in Phnom Penh saw hundreds of thousands of Cambodians killed before he was ousted by the Vietnamese.

The Khmer Rouge and Beijing recently took a small step towards Vietnamese and Phnom Penh demands by clearly stipulating in their peace plan the need for unspecified "effective measures" to prevent any one faction from taking control.

But the Khmer Rouge still wants the current Phnom Penh regime dismantled, which is unacceptable to Hanoi.

The Vietnamese sources said the best way to prevent the return of the Khmer Rouge was to close sanctuaries used by Pol Pot's supporters in Thailand, near the Cambodian border.

"Without these sanctuaries, Chinese aid to the Khmer Rouge could not get through and if the Pol Potists tried to enter Cambodia, they would be neutralised by the Cambodian Army and the Vietnamese" military, one source said. [quotation marks as received]

Talks Held With UK Official on Cambodia Issue
BK2508081988 Hanoi VNA in English 0717 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 25—Vietnamese Assistant Foreign Minister Le Mai met and exchanged views in London on August 22 with D.H. Gillmore, deputy under-secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs of the United Kingdom, on the latest developments relating to the Kampuchea issue, the situation in Southeast Asia and matters concerning the relations between the two countries.

Present on the occasion were Vietnamese Ambassador to Great Britain Tran Van Hung and D.O. Colvin, head of the British Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asia Department.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister's Visit Welcomed
BK2608054588 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Less than a month after the informal meeting in Jakarta to settle the Kampuchea issue, the Vietnamese people are elated to welcome the official visit to Vietnam by a Malaysian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba.

This trip is of great significance in the relations between Vietnam and Malaysia. The people of the two countries have had close relations in their fights for national independence and defense. In the recent past, the two countries have shared the same views on several questions. The results of the Jakarta informal meeting prove that dialogue is better than confrontation and that joining efforts in a dialogue to solve disputes is better than creating tension. For this very reason, the official friendship visit to Vietnam by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba will certainly help enhance the mutual understanding and the friendly relations between Vietnam and Malaysia. This is suitable to the aspirations and interests of the peoples of the two countries, contributing to the process of bringing peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Moreover, it is also suitable to the current policy of Malaysia. Speaking in Kuala Lumpur on 8 August, Mrs Rafidah Aziz, minister of commerce and industry of Malaysia, affirmed that her country advocates the strengthening of relations with socialist countries.

Nowadays, following the Jakarta informal meeting, more ASEAN countries have readjusted their attitude toward Vietnam. In early August, the new prime minister of Thailand, Mr Chatchai Chunhawan, affirmed his country's stand to improve its relations with the three Indochinese countries and promote trade with Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea. The president of the Philippines, Mrs Corazon Aquino, also advocates the improvement of the Filipino-Vietnamese relations. She said that Vietnam and the Philippines should further improve their relations and exchange delegations to have more contact with each other. A week after the Jakarta informal meeting, a delegation of the Government of Great Britain and a delegation of the Hong Kong Administration visited Vietnam to discuss a solution to questions arising from Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. This meeting could not immediately settle this issue but it created prospects for a settlement.

These developments show that the visit of Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba is in keeping with the common trend in the region and the world. It is of great significance to the current situation. It not only helps improve the relations between the two countries but also between Vietnam and other ASEAN nations.

After decades of war, the Vietnamese people have no other wish than to live in peace and friendship with other nations in the region. That is also the aspiration of the Lao and Kampuchean peoples and other nations in the region. The Vietnamese people wish fine success to the visit to Vietnam by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba.

Do Muoi Receives New Malaysian Ambassador
*BK2508154088 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 25—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received here today Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Yusof bin Hashim who paid a courtesy visit to the former.

Romanian Ambassador on Relations With Hanoi
*BK2508141088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 23 Aug 88*

[Romanian Ambassador to Vietnam Gheorghe Dumitru's statement on the 44th anniversary of Romanian National Day; in Romanian fading into Vietnamese translation—recorded]

[Summary] Esteemed comrades: Every year on 23 August the Romanian people and their friends commemorate the victory of the Romanian national liberation revolution over fascism and imperialism. Since that victory 44 years ago, and especially since the ninth Romanian Communist Party Congress, Romania has achieved many profound changes and progress in its socioeconomic development thanks to its unswerving policy on harmonious distribution of the labor forces to localities throughout the country.

On the foreign affairs front, Romania is cooperating with other countries in maintaining peace and security on the basis of equality, respecting each other's national independence and sovereignty, noninterference, and mutual interest. Our country has established diplomatic and economic relations with 150 countries.

"We are very happy to note that, in our overall foreign affairs activities, Romanian-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation relations play an important role and are developing with every passing day. Noteworthy are the talks between top leaders of our two countries in April this year on the occasion of the visit to Vietnam by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Mrs Elena Ceausescu. On this occasion the two sides expressed their wish to continue consolidating relations between the two parties and nations, and the need to expand and strengthen relations in the political, economic, cultural, and other fields for the interests of the Romanian and Vietnamese peoples and for the cause of peace, understanding, and international cooperation." Our people are watching with keen interest the Vietnamese working people's efforts in

implementing resolutions of the Sixth CPV Congress, the recent party Central Committee plenum, and the SRV Eighth National Assembly which are aimed at carrying out Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's directive on restoring the national economy and building socialist material-technical bases.

"With sincere and friendly sentiments we convey to the Vietnamese people our welcome for their achievements and wish them, under the CPV leadership, ever greater achievements in the cause of building a prosperous and happy life."

Ambassador to DPRK Presents Credentials
*BK2508155488 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 25—Vietnamese Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Nguyen Van Trong on August 23 presented his credentials to Vice-President of the DPRK Pak Song-chol.

In a conversation with the Vietnamese ambassador, the vice president expressed his belief that the solidarity and friendship between the two peoples would be further developed. He wished the Vietnamese people new achievements in implementing their 5-year plan.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Outgoing Australian Envoy
*BK2508154488 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 25—State Council President Vo Chi Cong received here today Australian Ambassador Ian Stawley Lincoln, who paid a farewell visit to the President before leaving for home for a new assignment.

Maritime Cooperation With GDR Promoted
*BK2508090588 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT
25 Aug 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 25—Vietnamese Vice Minister of Transport and Communications Bui Van Xuong and GDR Vice Minister of Transport H. Renner met recently in Berlin to discuss measures to promote the bilateral sea transport cooperation.

According to ADN, the sea transport companies of Vietnam and the German Democratic Republic plan to increase the volume of exchanged goods between the two countries by 25 percent over 1987.

State Council Issues Resolution on Amnesty
*BK2508124488 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 25 Aug 88*

[Text] At its meeting on 5 August 1988, the Council of State issued an amnesty resolution on the occasion of the

43d National Day, 2 September. The resolution reads as follows:

In view of Article 100 of the SRV Constitution and the results of implementing the state policy of education and rehabilitation toward criminals and those detainees for rehabilitation, on the occasion of the 43d National Day, 2 September, and as recommended by the Council of Ministers, the SRV Council of State decides:

1. To release those imprisoned criminals who have served at least two-fifths of their sentences. In case of life imprisonment, they must have served at least 12 years and have satisfactorily rehabilitated according to the following criteria: a. They must have sincerely repented and resolved to rehabilitate themselves into good people.
- b. They must have scrupulously complied with the internal rules of detention camps.
- c. They must have positively worked and studied and have urged other criminals to rehabilitate themselves and progress.
2. To reduce the terms of punishment for those imprisoned criminals who have served at least one-sixth of their sentences. In case of life imprisonment, they must have served at least 5 years, and have satisfactorily rehabilitated themselves according to the aforesaid criteria.
3. Those detainees for rehabilitation who have satisfactorily rehabilitated themselves according to the criteria mentioned in point 1 above, and who have been detained in camps for at least 1 year, will also be released.
4. When amnesty is considered, there may be compromise with regard to the factor of time spent in detention or the degree of education and rehabilitation for those falling under one the following cases:
 - a. They have achieved merits during their term of serving sentences.
 - b. They are disabled and sick soldiers or have achieved merits for the revolution.
 - c. A blood relative member of their families is a fallen hero or has achieved merits for the revolution, or has scored outstanding achievements in combat and production.
 - d. They are old and seriously sick.
 - e. They have many small children with no one to take care of; their parents or sponsors have no support; or their families face many difficulties in life.
5. The Council of Ministers, the People's Supreme Court, the People's Supreme Organ of Control are responsible for implementing this decision.

Hanoi, 5 August 1988

The SRV Council of State

[Signed] Chairman Vo Chi Cong

Article Assesses 'Openness' of Communist Party
BK2408092988 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN
in Vietnamese Jun 88 pp 28-32

[Tran Hau article: "Some Views on Openness"]

[Text] The Communist Party's broad openness stems from its democratic nature and objectives and from its prescribed task of regularly informing the masses not only of successes but also the contradictions, shortcomings, difficulties, and obstacles in the advance of the cause of socialist construction. It is now a powerful trend in the process of restructuring and renovation in the socialist countries.

The essential nature of openness must be understood in the context that all matters relating to the masses' obligations and interests must be resolved not as dictated by the wishes and interests of any persons or groups, but in accordance with the masses' fundamental and legitimate interests and with the direct control and examination of the people concerned or their worthy and trusted representatives. It must be done in such a way as to show respect for the masses' correct views; ensure the enhancement of the leading role of the party, the managerial function of the state, and the master status of the people in their capacity as both the product and masters of society.

Openness must be perceived as political courage, a high sense of responsibility, frankness, the readiness to admit shortcomings and face difficulties, not being afraid of engaging in debate and hearing conflicting ideas and viewpoints, the fortitude and courage to face challenges in the struggle for truth and reason, against bureaucratism, feudal paternalism....

Openness is closely linked with integrity, the desire to accurately reflect the nature of things with their multifarious contents.

Openness is associated with sincerity in human relations. Through the exercise of openness, man asserts himself and determines the relationship between the individual and the community. Openness does not mean a show of natural openmindedness, openness for its own sake, or a propaganda theme devoid of any capability to promote democratization and serve the vital interests of the revolutionary cause of the working class and laboring people. The purpose of openness is to reflect the party's mass viewpoint and leadership level, the state's management standards, and the mass organizations' operational prowess.

Openness must not be seen as a temporary measure designed solely for certain specific points of time. It is an error indeed not to realize that openness is a criterion of socialist society and one of the most important characteristics of the socialist way of life under democracy. The transformation of the remnants of the old society with its countless evils reflected in the ulcers and other diseases

spreading everywhere, including in the party, the state apparatus, and the mass organizations, now more than ever before calls for openness and straightforwardness. Only through the promotion of openness, criticism and self-criticism, and control by the masses will we be able to achieve this transformation.

Openness must be viewed as an ongoing, uninterrupted process. Vigorously implementing openness will help speed up the fulfillment of the new tasks of the revolutionary cause. In their turn, the weighty tasks of the new stage of the revolution will make new, more exacting requirements from openness. Preaching openness and justice but not daring to practice openness is tantamount to wanting to restrict democracy and obstruct justice. It can be said that openness is the direct implementation and the guarantee of democracy and justice. This dialectical process will ceaselessly spawn new contradictions the resolution of which will promote the continuous advance of the revolutionary cause.

Openness does not mean just to let everyone know what they need to know so as to create favorable conditions for all to be informed, hold discussions, take action, exert control, and enjoy the fruits commensurate with their contributions in the common conditions of the country. Openness must also be reflected in the work style of the party and state organs; in the way we discuss, study, and resolve the contradictions that spring up in life; and in the frank scrutiny of and dealing—under the control and supervision of the collective and the masses—with matters and people affecting the interests of the collective and the masses.

Openness must be seen in its organic relationship with the absence of openness. It must be placed in a definite space and time frame for each specific socioeconomic relation. Openness does not mean to reveal everything to the press and compromise national secrets. This allows for the determination of the different levels, limits, times, and objects of openness for different subjects. The scientific character of openness rules out uniformity in the practice of all types of openness—between party members and nonmembers, between higher and lower echelons, between party committee members and nonmembers, between different areas of social activities, between the domestic and international aspects, between different time points, and between different periods. There are times when absolute practice of openness may, far from bringing about the necessary effect, hurt the very goal of openness itself and the process of democratization and ameliorating sociopolitical relations.

Since the 27th CPSU Congress, there have emerged in the Soviet Union different forms for the practice of openness, including the criticism of shortcomings in party leadership and state management (committed by organizations and individuals) through the mass media, the open selection of leading and managerial cadres through elections, the open dissemination of party and state policies related to the masses, the holding of

dialogues between leading cadres and the masses to frankly and openly discuss issues of mutual concern, the open review of historical events and historical figures which have given rise to a divergence of opinions in the past as well as at present, and so forth.

In our country, openness has been practiced and broadened on a new scale and with a new character during the first stage of the transitional period to socialism. The socioeconomic characteristics that are peculiar to Vietnam have, on the one hand, necessitated the pressing need to step up the practice of openness; but they themselves have, on the other hand, also presented no small obstacles to the practice of openness.

Obviously, for one thing, the psyche characteristic of small producers is still heavily imprinted on the social relations of everyone, including the communists; and finds its expression in the feeling of satisfaction with what already exists, avoidance of contradictions, and resignation to one's lot. Vietnamese society, which has languished for centuries under the feudal system but has experienced neither developed capitalism nor bourgeois democracy, easily induces in everyone of us a feeling of timidity and a conservative, patriarchal frame of mind. One does not want openness, especially openness in pointing out shortcomings and deficiencies; nor does one wish to look squarely at the truth, especially heart-rending ones; or to hear different ideas from the lower echelons, especially ideas that contradict the views of the higher echelons. This means one feels it impossible to "show the world the bones in his closet," and to upset the already established "order."

A big impediment to the practice of openness is bureaucracy that reveals here all the economic origins of its birth, namely the isolation and fragmentation of small producers; their poverty and backwardness; the state of underdevelopment in the cultural, communication and transportation, and postal fields; and the lack of interaction between industry and agriculture. Bureaucratism breeds isolation, making the leadership apparatus estrange itself from the people, stand above the people, take command through the arbitrary imposition of purely administrative orders, and repress creative ideas of the masses while evading their legitimate aspirations and demands.

The great successes of the people's national democratic revolution in the past decades have secured for our party a high level of confidence from the people throughout the country and the international communist movement. Against this background, a number of cadres and party members have developed an air of "communist vain-glory," being drunk with success and satisfied with their own leadership capacity. These cadres and party members are not used to living and placing their work under the watchful eyes of the masses; nor are they in the habit of seeking opinions from the masses and holding open and direct dialogues with the latter. It is hard for them to accept changes, especially those changes that affect their

leading position with its accompanying personal prerogatives and privileges. They are used to working on paper and only reach the masses through the giving of instructions, the protestation of truism, and the issuance of orders.

Furthermore, in face of our party's mistakes and shortcomings in directing socialist economic development and indecisiveness in overcoming social difficulties and negativism during the recent past, it was those advocating communist arrogance who suddenly switched themselves from such a state of unfounded "optimism" to a state of confusion, fear, and vacillation and who shirked responsibility and evaded the truth. More than anybody, these persons are afraid of living and working under the overt control of our entire society. Therefore, they cannot be satisfied with the practice of openness. To the higher echelons, they may resort to the tricks of clarification or deception in an attempt to save their own skin. However, they cannot use these tricks when it comes to facing broad segments of the wise masses. Through the practice of openness, the masses will question them for the last time and suggest that they just resume the positions that suit them in society.

It is a matter of fact that the standard of theoretical and educational knowledge of the masses in our country is still low. This directly affects the practice of openness. A low standard of educational knowledge can distort the policy of openness and make it easy for man to act along one of the two opposite poles: either without openness at all or with openness in an absolute, widespread, and unlimited manner. Meanwhile, criticism and self-criticism in public require certain conditions and knowledge. These include scientific objectivism, a clear understanding of the truth and the criteria of criticism, honesty, a dialectical and historical character, the comprehension of the issues to be criticized, and the courage and knowledge to effectively use the weapon of criticism and self-criticism.

As soon as it came into being, our party was compelled to carry out its activities secretly for many years due to ruthless acts of terrorism by the enemy and the fierceness of protracted war. That historical situation enabled our party to develop a habit of constantly and rigidly guarding secrets in order to preserve forces. Today, faced with the needs arising from the process of democratization and openness, the task of transforming and renovating a habit is truly a difficult, protracted, and hard struggle despite the fact that we are well aware of its urgency and usefulness.

Meanwhile, we must take into account a traditional habit of the east with the influence of various religions in Asia and Confucianist theories. Confucianism—which has existed in our country for thousands of years as a result of the domination by northern feudalism—and other centuries-old vestiges of the Vietnamese feudal regime and colonialism, old and new, are no small obstacles to the practice of openness in our country.

Striving to surmount all difficulties, we must foster openness most satisfactorily aimed at ensuring democratization for use as the firm premise for the process of comprehensive renovation laid down by the sixth party congress.

To achieve this, first of all, it is necessary to practice openness fully and honestly in all internal activities of the party, especially in the two most important elements: party organizations at the grass-roots level and party organs of leadership at the highest level. As the nucleus in the socialist political system, our party must take the lead in practicing openness and democracy in our entire society. Reality clearly shows that without openness, it is certain that we cannot carry out democratization. Even if we can, it is merely for the sake of formality. To ensure that all activities in the party are truly carried out amid an atmosphere of openness, democracy, and straightforwardness and in a spirit of comradeship, it is extremely important and imperative to improve the standard of theoretical knowledge; step up criticism and self-criticism in an overt, frank, and equitable manner from bottom to top; oppose and do away with dogmatic thinking and foster scientific thinking; and eliminate all deviant and degenerate elements, arbitrariness, despotism, separatism, factionalism, and the practice of persecuting the lower echelons and flattering the higher echelons.

Second, it is necessary to provide guidance for and overcome weaknesses and shortcomings in the mass media sector. Efforts must be made to train, foster, and care for mass media cadres in every respect, especially their living and working conditions, as well as to see to it that they are satisfactorily managed and utilized. The mass media network must be organized scientifically and improved under a state management mechanism to ensure that it operates with efficiency. Apart from various directives and resolutions of the party, it is necessary to apply laws concerning the press, radio and television stations, and news agencies to create a legal basis for various forms of openness. Although the application of economic accounting is a necessity, this work cannot be perfunctorily performed in various mass media services because the political "profit" cannot be valued in terms of money. Therefore, it is almost time for us to study and quickly enforce a suitable financial policy to enable the mass media to operate satisfactorily.

Third, in the process of implementing openness, it is necessary to promptly uncover and to urgently and effectively solve problems that we have failed to settle or will have to encounter in the economic, cultural, social, and human life fields. Consequently, all fundamental problems concerning the legal system, policies, and the socioeconomic management system must be clearly determined and systematized. We can in no way let negative cases that have already been exposed by the mass media go unsettled simply because we still do not have sufficient legal grounds, policies, and systems to

deal with them. Therefore, by working out an appropriate legal system and a strict policy, we can make a concrete, important, and necessary contribution to ensuring highly effective results for efforts to implement openness.

Fourth, it is necessary to do all we can in the cultural and political fields to help improve the people's knowledge. Lenin has asserted: "Illiteracy keeps people from political activities." (Footnote 1) (Lenin: "Collected Works," Tien Bo Publishing House, Moscow, 1978, Vol 11, p 218) Limited political and cultural knowledge on the part of the masses will affect efforts to implement openness. Realities have shown that if the masses can improve their capabilities, can enhance the sense of collective mastership, and can become highly motivated politically and socially, then they will know how to exercise their own right to democracy and openness and will show respect for other people's right to democracy and openness. Therefore, urgent efforts must be made to introduce civic and legal education into the curricula of our general education and higher education and vocational middle schools. In this way, we can guarantee firm and long-lasting conditions for our efforts to implement openness.

Our efforts to implement openness within the central-level party and state leadership mechanisms are of real significance. Attempts must be made to deal with urgent problems of common concern for the society. It is necessary to effect changes right within the overall social management mechanism because this responds well to the concrete and urgent demands of life and the masses' aspirations as reflected in the nationwide movement to implement democratization and openness in the socio-economic field so as to accelerate the current overall renovation undertaking.

Party, State Officials Meet on Land Disputes

BK2508132188 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The CPV Central Committee Secretariat and the Council of Ministers Standing Committee met in Can Tho City of Hau Giang Province from 17-19 August with the [party committee] secretaries and [people's committee] chairmen of various provinces and cities in Nam Bo and their propaganda-training section chiefs and peasants association chairmen to discuss ways to solve a number of problems regarding land use in Nam Bo.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Political Bureau and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Agricultural Department.

Those attending the meeting heard and discussed a draft report presented by Comrade Le Phuoc Tho on the need to solve the question of land use in Nam Bo.

The participants noted that since the Sixth CPV Congress, and particularly since the promulgation of the party Central Committee's Resolution No 2 and the Political Bureau's Resolution No 10, peasants in Nam Bo have been welcoming the renovative spirit of these resolutions, especially the call for unleashing all production forces and stepping up the production of commodities. Therefore, there have been many petitions sent to the administrations at various levels calling on them to create favorable conditions for peasants to carry out production with successful results. Most of the peasants' petitions are connected with the following two topics:

First, it is necessary to tackle irrationalities in the process of making land readjustments and giving out contracts for products.

Second, it is necessary to solve the situation in which a number of weak cooperatives and production collectives have run their production businesses unsuccessfully, especially the currently prevalent state of unfair and undemocratic management.

These legitimate demands are being resolved by various localities within their capacity. Pending specific guidelines from the central government, many party committee echelons have paid heed to specific and rational demands of the peasants. They have personally contacted the petitioners and have exchanged views with and guided them in finding a satisfactory solution. A large number of the peasants' petitions have, therefore, been settled.

In a number of localities, however, there have been some cases of slow or unsatisfactory settlement, resulting in a situation where the peasants have had to turn to relevant provincial seats or cities to hand in their collective petitions demanding a prompt settlement.

The participants unanimously held that one of the reasons leading to the above situation is that following the issuance of various party resolutions on renovation, especially the Political Bureau's Resolution No 10 on renovating agricultural management, the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers have been slow in providing guidance for their enforcement and institutionalization. Despite their active efforts to find a solution, localities have been slow in filing their reports and making their suggestions with the central government so the latter can quickly come up with uniform guidelines.

Addressing the meeting, Comrade Vo Van Kiet emphasized the stance on settling the land problem with the peasants. Solving the land problem must aim at unleashing the production forces and using land and manpower to carry out intensive cultivation in such a way as to obtain good results and yield commodities in largest quantities.

In settling land disputes, we must concentrate on developing the tradition of solidarity and mutual assistance. All problems can be discussed to find a solution among the peasants themselves and between peasants and the party and the state.

Solving the land problem must be aimed at substantially consolidating various cooperatives and production collectives; making collectivized production organizations truly effective and capable of attracting the voluntary participation of peasants and promoting the flexible application of various contractual formats—such as giving out contracts to individual households or giving out whole-package contracts for crop cultivation to suit the actual situation in each locality. Through this, efforts must be made to consolidate the relations between the party and peasants and strengthen the grass-roots party and administrative organizations so they can provide better service to the people, thus ensuring the people's right to mastery.

While the central government is providing specific guidance, localities must promptly solve a number of cases within their capacity: They must review those pieces of land already distributed in an egalitarian fashion to people whose principal trade is not agriculture to redistribute these lands to people with good production records.

As for those pieces of land already confiscated or nationalized by the revolutionary administration for redistribution to peasants, it is necessary to reconfirm here that there will be no question of returning these lands to their former owners.

With regard to those pieces of land which have already been assigned to various state farms, forestry sites, public organs, or units for cultivation, but which have been used with negative results, we must take back the portions of land which have been used ineffectively or wastefully to further redistribute them to experienced peasant households so they can yield more marketable products.

Provinces are responsible for solving land problems facing their own state farms. As for land problems encountered by those state farms belonging to the ministry [Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry], relevant provinces must report this to the central government for consideration and resolution.

Lands now being used effectively by state farms and forestry sites must continue to be maintained and developed. Unclaimed lands taken away from peasants who formerly cultivated them should be returned to these peasants. There is another alternative: Peasants may be persuaded to take other pieces of land if the unclaimed lands formerly belonging to them have been taken away and distributed to other people who are using these lands effectively.

In the event former unclaimed land users have a stable job capable of ensuring their living while the new users of these unclaimed lands have become stabilized in their production, we must urge those involved to maintain the status quo. The administrations in those localities having unclaimed land users must exchange views in detail on the use of these lands.

If there are disputes involving party cadres and members, prompt and impartial measures should be taken to prevent party cadres or members from abusing their power to occupy land. According to policies, the families of party cadres and members who are peasants will be entitled to the same share of land as other local peasants.

As for the petitioners, the local party organizations and administrations concerned must study, analyze, and discuss their problems in order to come up with a reasonable and fair settlement. They must also provide guidance for and exchange views with the peasants to seek ways to tackle the latter's legitimate demands.

In the process of settlement, all acts of rude treatment, arrests or detentions, and all camouflaged persecutions—such as subjecting peasants to reeducation or to rude denunciations—will be prohibited.

Districts must help villages, while provinces must dutifully help key districts and villages in solving problems locally, without prompting the people to take to provincial seats or cities to make their grievances heard. Peasants having grievances must calmly exchange views and hold discussions with their local party committees or administrations to find a most satisfactory resolution. They should guard against being incited to violate the law or sabotage crops, for this will be detrimental not only to themselves but also to the general interest.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet asked local leaders to urge and motivate the peasants to remain united in production, to have confidence in the party, to be calm in waiting for various policies to be promulgated by the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, and to strive to complete the remaining work of the summer-fall crop while carrying out the 10th-month crop satisfactorily and quickly making preparations for the coming winter-spring crop. This is tantamount to making active contributions to the party and state efforts to satisfactorily solve various socioeconomic problems.

Ho Chi Minh City Acts Against Publications
BK2508095888 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City People's Council at its recent 18th conference issued a resolution on stopping the deterioration in the city's cultural and educational activities. It assigned the cultural committee to coordinate with functional branches to control the production and circulation of decadent movies, books, and other cultural works with bad contents.

Implementing this People's Council resolution, the city people's committee has issued a decision ordering an immediate halt, as of mid-August, to the publication and circulation of books carrying criminal stories so that such works can be examined and reviewed. Within 10 days, publishing enterprises and establishments must seal up such books and send them to the city cultural and

information office for examination, analysis, and for a decision on what action should be taken.

The city is also striving to strengthen the publishing council so that it can satisfactorily carry out its staff function in the management and issuing of publishing licenses. Publishing houses in the city are strictly prohibited from printing and circulating books at will.

Australia

Increase in Foreign Aid to South Pacific

BK2408083988 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Fiji's interim government has welcomed the increase in aid from Australia. The acting prime minister, Mr Kamikamica, says Australia is backing the government's efforts for economic recovery and the restoration of democracy in Fiji.

In last night's annual budget, Australian aid to Fiji was boosted by nearly 70 percent to Australian \$22 million this financial year. The aid increase came despite continued calls from the deposed Fiji prime minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, for Australia to suspend aid in retaliation for the introduction of Fiji's internal security decree. The decree has given wide powers of arrest and detention to security forces.

In the annual budget presented to federal Parliament, Australian \$1,093 million was allocated to foreign aid. Most of the bilateral aid goes to the South Pacific region.

Papua New Guinea gets 42 percent of the bilateral aid, about 12 percent going to other South Pacific countries. Nearly 19 percent of the bilateral aid is allocated to Southeast Asia and more than 11 percent goes to student subsidies. An increase of more than 20 percent was announced in funding for a South Pacific aid program during the financial year ending next June.

New Zealand

Agreement on New Caledonia's Future Welcomed

BK2508090188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT
25 Aug 88

[Text] Wellington, Aug 25 (AFP)—New Zealand Foreign Minister Russell Marshall said Thursday that the agreement reached over the future of New Caledonia was a considerable achievement.

The agreement was reached in Paris Saturday after three days of talks between the French Government and New Caledonia's loyalist and separatist groups.

"It is a considerable achievement and is a further welcome development," said Mr Marshall, who had earlier declined to comment until he had seen details of the accord.

"It is a confirmation of the determination of all parties to succeed in finding a way forward for New Caledonia," he added.

Mr Marshall said in his statement that allowing the three new provinces to be responsible for their own policy-making from next July was essential to the devolution process and was an encouraging move.

"Particularly pleasing is the clear message in the agreement that there is a need to develop mutual respect between the communities, and that each community needs to develop its full economic, social and cultural potential," he said.

The agreement—to be put to a French referendum later this year—calls for a New Caledonian vote on independence in 1998 after a transitional period of limited self-government.

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